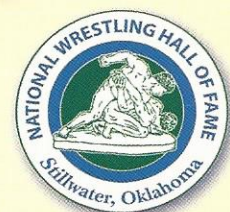
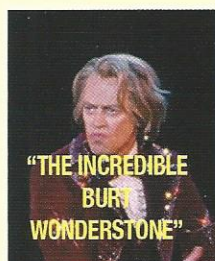




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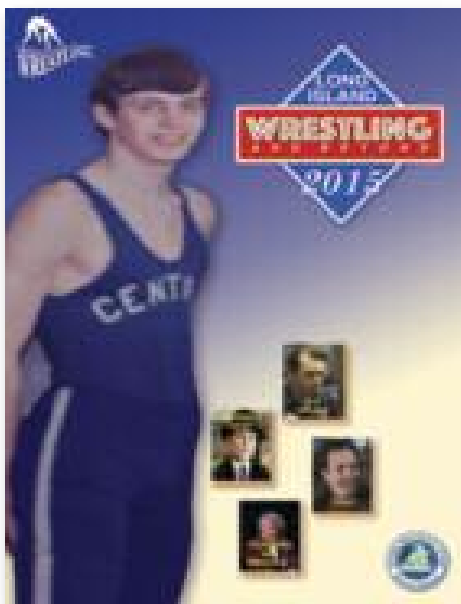
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The Friends of Long Island Wrestling would like to thank the many people and organizations that have graciously contributed stories and photographs for this issue of *Long Island Wrestling*. We are thankful to all of our sponsors and to the individuals and businesses who have taken ads in support of the Hall of Fame inductees. Without this support, we would be unable to publish this magazine each year.



THE COVER STORY:

Our cover features a photo of 2015 Hall of Fame Inductee, Steve Buscemi, in his high school wrestling uniform. Steve grew up on Long Island and attended Valley Stream Central High School before embarking on his acting career.

Richard Earl, a former teammate and lifetime friend, contributed the following comment:

Steve Buscemi spent six successful years on the mat for legendary Long Island wrestling coach and mentor, Harold Earl of Valley Stream Central. Valley Stream is a suburb just outside New York City. Steve remains grateful for the life lessons he learned in wrestling and for the wonderful relationships he built that continue to this day.

Letters to the Editor:

“Great job with the website guys, really enjoyed it Keep up the good work!”

Joe Russo

“Friends, The new website is great, nice job.”

John Hamilton

“I like the new website and the information is easy to access.”

Matt Sanzone

“I’ve been looking at the article about Coach Bob Bury. As a 1965 graduate of Calhoun and a member of the wrestling team (for a short time), I think Coach Bury stands out as an inspirational figure. Above the wrestling room was the sign. “A winner “never quits and a quitter never wins”. “He’s a good man”

Al Russell

“Greetings Pascal— Thanks to you and The Friends of Long Island Wrestling for your generous support of the Upstate New York Chapter’s banquet. The chapter is very appreciative of your kindness. Your financial support will go a long way to enhancing the induction ceremony for our honorees.”

Carl Koenig—President, Upstate New York Chapter of The National Wrestling Hall of Fame

I just wanted to drop you a note to say how much I enjoy “Long Island Wrestling” and what a great job you have been doing with it. It’s been a long time since I’ve been on a mat, but when I see familiar names in the magazine, the memories come flooding back. The excruciating pain, the smell of the wrestling room...all that good stuff

Rod Clarke

A Message from Friends of Long Island Wrestling President, Jerry Seckler

AMERICAN WRESTLING

MAKING A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO A VERY REAL CHALLENGE



Jerry Seckler, Friends of Long Island Wrestling President, wrestled at Valley Stream Central High School. As an 8th grader he finished 2nd in the South Shore Championships. For the next three years, as a freshman, sophomore, and junior, he lost only one dual meet. Twice he was Long Island Champion, Jr. & Senior Metropolitan Champion. As a junior in high school, he defeated the defending Outstanding Wrestler in the National AAU Championships.

His Senior year was spent at St. Paul's School in Garden City, where he led the school to a fourth place finish in the National Prep Championship and was judged the outstanding wrestler in the tournament.

Going on to Penn State University, he continued his career by going undefeated in dual meets as a Junior, and was Co-captain of Penn States EIWA Championship team.

American "folk style" wrestling has experienced a number of significant changes. The creation of Title IX, while intended to provide women equal opportunities in sports, unfortunately caused the demise of hundreds of intercollegiate programs in men's sports. For instance the proportionality in numbers between men and women participating in athletic activities forced many institutions to reduce the number of men's positions, while increasing the number of women's.

In order to meet the new federal requirements, college administrators had to produce enough new women's positions to match the quota of the women's population in the entire university and use the same formulas for establishing the number of men enrolled in athletic activities. Therefore, balancing the enrollment of each sex, rather than the needs of each program, proved to be a daunting task for college administrators and athletic budgets. Advocates of Title IX's current interpretations caused increases in female athletic participation.

In a recent study, the number of women in high school sports had increased by a factor of 9%, while the number of women in college sports had increased by more than 450%. Many contend that the current interpretation of Title IX has resulted in the dismantling of men's programs, despite strong participation in those sports at the high school level. For example, though interest in the sport of wrestling has consistently increased at the high school level since 1990, scores of colleges have dropped their wrestling programs during that same period to meet the Title IX requirements.

Wrestling historically was the most frequently eliminated sport. In several institutions, prominent wrestling alumni stepped forward and began to change the tide in favor of the maintenance and promotion of intercollegiate wrestling in their schools. Our honor roll of those who truly are making a difference in intercollegiate wrestling is not complete. However, we are proud of the successful efforts of those we are aware of, and believe that is important that people who are interested in the great sport of American wrestling recognize their efforts.



Steven Friedman, a EIWA and National AAU Champion, then the president of Goldman Sachs, put together an alumni group, that included Dave Dunlap,

Phil Proujensky, Dave Wechsler and Arno Niemand. They with others, developed a world-class wrestling facility, a training facility, and an arena specifically designed for wrestling. In addition, their efforts clearly sent the message to the University that wrestling was important to the college and in the community. Cornell wrestling team became a national contender placing in the top three, in the nation, and is a strong contender today.



Andy Barth wrestled for Columbia College, America's oldest intercollegiate wrestling program. Andy understood the

need for stability in the athletic program, especially wrestling at Columbia. He stepped forward and provided funds to renovate the wrestling room and funded the head wrestling position in much the same way that professors seats were funded at the college. Andy has encouraged other alumni to join him in supporting not only Columbia, but America's International efforts in Olympic wrestling. Andy and Columbia's Dave Barry, both were participants as managers for the 2012 American Team at the London Olympics. Andy managed the men's team while Dave Barry managed the women's team.



Noel Thompson, a Hofstra wrestling All-American, stepped forward to provide the University and wrestling program with financial support. Thompson's effort was joined by Hofstra Athletic Director Jeff Hathaway who petitioned the EIWA and had Hofstra admitted to the oldest wrestling league in the nation. This year, Hofstra selected Dennis Papadatos, a Hofstra alumnus, to head up the Hofstra Wrestling Program. Thompson has gone well beyond his alma mater at Hofstra and was an active participant in preserving wrestling in the Olympics. As part of those efforts, Thompson has been the manager of the American Women's world wrestling team, and American goodwill ambassador to dozens of countries in his efforts to save wrestling.



Binghamton University had joined the hundreds of institutions who were dropping wrestling programs. But, Binghamton wrestling alumni, and nationally known movie star, Bill Baldwin stepped forward and led the petition to reinstitute wrestling at the New York State University at Binghamton. This opened the door to changes in the New York State University system that included the development of club programs at Stony Brook University and Farmingdale State University. Baldwin has been a tireless advocate for wrestling, not only at his alma mater, but for wrestling in the United States university systems, women's world wrestling team, and American goodwill ambassador to dozens of countries in his efforts to save wrestling.



Ira Lubert, a heavyweight for Bill Koll's wrestling team, remained in the State College area following his graduation. He joined Rich Lorenzo in rebuilding Penn State Wrestling program into National prominence. The process included building a new facility dedicated to wrestling which included a mat area of three mats, a study hall, training rooms, locker facilities, and a completely stocked training area including weights and various machines for the continued development of the Penn State wrestlers. Lubert then headed up the successful effort to recruit and hire Cale Sanderson as the Penn State Wrestling head coach. The result has been national dominance for 4 straight years with National Team titles.



Dave Pottruck, lettered in football and wrestling as an undergraduate. As a graduate student, Dave did double duty as the assistant wrestling coach at the University of Pennsylvania. In his business career, Dave excelled becoming the president of Charles Schwab Inc. He recognized the trend and pressures put upon the wrestling program at the University of Pennsylvania and stepped forward with a major contribution to the university. Wrestling was a major part of the total funds, including endowing the head wrestling position, refurbishing the wrestling room, and underwriting the support of the operating cost of the program. In addition, Dave worked with the remainder of wrestling alumni insuring that those wrestling functions were taken care of. As a result of their efforts, the University of Pennsylvania quickly emerged as a major program in Eastern Wrestling.



Michael Novogratz, a Princeton wrestling alumni, is playing a major role in developing wrestling in the Metropolitan area. Novogratz joined with USA Wrestling to develop the "Beat the Streets" program in New York City. As a result, thousands of youngsters are being exposed to both free style and intercollegiate wrestling. New York City has been the beneficiary of having major international events staged in Times Square, Grand Central Station and Madison Square Garden. Princeton is back competing and looking for an Ivy League and/or EIWA title. Through Michaels' efforts, along with those of Rick Tavaso and Bill Fortenbaugh, the future of amateur wrestling has been greatly enhanced.



At Lehigh University, John Harmon, super wrestling supporter, and Mike Caruso, former 3 time NCAA Champion, stepped on the mat to insure Lehigh's wrestling program and future. Together, and with the support of several other dedicated people, they completely rebuilt the former wrestling facility into one of the finest in the country. The Leeman-Turner Arena, and the Michael Caruso Complex, which includes the Sheridan-Leeman-Turner wrestling room, are all first class.

We have mentioned several of the real heroes of wrestling in America. There are many others who, without their effort, support and love of the programs, not only would intercollegiate wrestling be gone, but so might wrestling in the Olympics.

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Bill Trichon

The New York Downstate Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame is sorry to report that Bill Trichon, a founding member of our organization has lost his final bout.

Bill wrestled for Valley Stream Central High School and was coached by the great Hall of Fame coach, Harold Earl.

Bill had to fight for every opportunity to compete against other schools, because the two wrestlers who were in front of him were both undefeated.

His work ethic and his determination to succeed were evident in his wrestling career and in the development and operation of a successful business.

Bill enjoyed his ongoing relationship with wrestling and with the many great athletes and personalities that he had the opportunity to deal with as the dinner chairman for the Hall of Fame Dinners over the past 20 years.

Bill is survived by his wife Evelyn and his sons, Jeffrey, Russell, Mitchell and their families.



"THANK YOU"

We are fortunate to have a number of people who "step on the mat", when we need someone to do a job. Without them, our organization could not survive. We take this opportunity to recognize them and give them our sincere THANKS!!!



PAT AUGUSTINE: a Board member on the golf committee, a tireless worker who helps make our only fundraiser a success

BOB BURY: a Board member who is always available when there is a job to be done



BILL BRENNEN: a Board member, his expertise and dedication makes this publication possible



MICHAEL DerGARABEDIAN: a Board member and sponsor who never lets the FOLIW down.



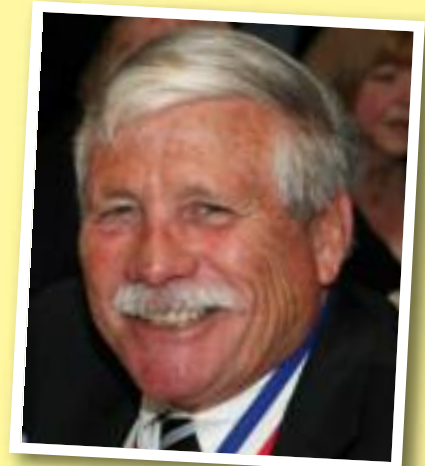
PETE CIMINO: a Board member on the golf committee, who always gets the job done.



MIKE DAVEY: a Board member who always there when we need him—golf, Hall of Fame dinner, and everything in between.



NEIL DUNCAN: (left) and **PAUL BRODMERKEL:** Board members serving on the Hall of Fame Follow-up Recognition Committee





DENNIS DUNNE: a Board member devoted to Golf Committee Success

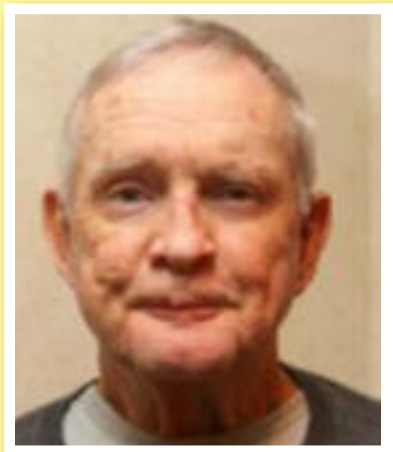


BILL TRICHON: (deceased) Board member was devoted to Hall of Fame dinner and Golf Outing Success

GEORGE DLUGOLONSKI: a Board member on the Golf Committee & Hall of Fame Committee



CHRIS MESSINA: a Board member, invaluable member of Hall of Fame Selection Committee



FRED HOLLE: a Board member and jack-of-all jobs including our annual publication



NOEL THOMPSON: a Board member & sponsor, specializing in fundraising and financial advice

BILL ZAGARINO: a Board member and Chairman of the Hall of Fame Selection Committee



PETE VENIER: a Board member involved in Hall of Fame Dinner, Golf Outing and serves as staff photographer



It is with great appreciation that we thank the people mentioned for their time, talents, effort and devotion to making the Friends of Long Island Wrestling... and beyond, a valuable contributor nationally to the great sport of Amateur Wrestling.

HENRY WITTENBERG AND THE 1948 LONDON OLYMPICS



Arno Niemand

In doing research for another wrestling book, I found that one wrestler's name kept appearing in the results: Henry Wittenberg. Several national champions and coaches I interviewed said that he was one of the greatest wrestlers they had ever seen. In fact, he was rated the greatest amateur wrestler of the first half of the 20th century in a poll of wrestling coaches.

Henry Wittenberg was a "force of nature." At 5 feet 9 1/2 inches and 191 pounds, he was described as "built like a blacksmith" and "quick as a cat". His shoulders and chest were massive. He was the only wrestler of his day who believed in weight lifting. Most coaches thought it would make their boys "muscle-bound."

Henry's overall record was 354 wins and 3 losses, including eight national championships, Olympic gold and silver medals, and two Maccabiah Games championships. He was undefeated for 14 years, from 1938 until 1952.

The life of this legendary wrestler is the subject of my next book, to be published in 2015.

The year 1948 was to be Henry's last year of competition. He had been competing for 12 years and was now 29 years old, with a full-time job as a police officer; a wife, Edith, also a police officer; and two kids. He had also served two years in the Navy. Although there were several other outstanding AAU wrestlers with even more longevity, none had achieved the results that he had. He was undefeated in the past nine years.

The Olympic Games to be held in London in 1948 took on particular significance. No Olympics had been held since Berlin in 1936. Because of World War II, both the 1940 Olympics scheduled for Tokyo and the 1944 Olympics in London had been cancelled. Henry most certainly would have been on the podium in 1944, when he was in his prime.

A resident of the Bronx, Henry prepared for the Games by following his usual training program, ramping up workouts at the West Side YMCA, his home base, and also at the New York Athletic Club, where he was always welcomed by the wrestling team's coach, Murl Thrush. Because Henry was Jewish he was not permitted to represent the NYAC as a team member.

Henry's goal was to accumulate as many bouts as possible before the Olympic trials in late April. There would be 12 district qualifying tournaments with two

qualifiers per weight class. The NCAA and NAAU tournaments would each qualify four men per weight class. All tournaments would use international (Olympic) rules and weight classes, and all matches would be 15 minutes in length. Henry won the Metropolitan AAU tournament, followed by the district Olympic trials held at Rutgers University. He easily won the National AAU tournament held at Hofstra College April 15–17, without a single bad mark against him, the only wrestler to do so.

The Olympic trials were held at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, April 24–30. Henry had won his first National AAU title there back in 1940. He flew out with Murl Thrush and the NYAC team. He pinned his way through to the finals, where he met Verne Gagne, the NCAA champion from Minnesota who was later to have a great career as a professional wrestler.

The evening before his match with Gagne, Henry elected to go for a run on the track behind the field house and twisted his ankle badly on the curb of the track. He immediately limped back to the field house. Coach Thrush took one look at it and said, "If you expect to wrestle tomorrow, do not take your shoe off." They stuck his foot in a bucket of ice water, went back to the hotel, and Thrush instructed him to soak his foot through the night. Needless to say, Henry got little sleep.

He made weight the following morning, had a light breakfast and said he would wrestle. Thrush tossed him two aspirins and said, "Give him hell!" He could barely walk but he won a decision. Thrush cut the shoe off and



The 1948 United States Olympic Wrestling Team

drove Henry to the airport in Des Moines, where he got a flight back to New York. There he immediately had an x-ray, which revealed a cracked a bone in his ankle.

Gus Peterson, a former Swedish trainer, had just retired after serving as the long-time wrestling coach at Columbia University. He worked on the ankle every day for a week, and soon Henry was working out again. He had until July 1 to report to the Olympic training camp.

While all this was going on, Henry's 52-year-old father, who lived in Manhattan, was diagnosed with an inoperable, malignant kidney tumor that had metastasized; he did not have long to live. Henry thought about withdrawing from the team. His dad, who was his biggest fan, urged him to continue and promised he would hang on until the Games were over.

The U.S. team's training camp was held at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA, for two weeks prior to their sailing to Southampton. All 16 wrestlers were at the camp. Henry received special permission to drive back to New York City every day after practice to visit his father, returning the following morning. It was a two-hour drive each way. The wrestle-offs were held in Lehigh's Grace Hall on July 10th. Henry defeated his alternate, Gagne, and there would be no second wrestle-off.

The team departed on the S.S. America on July 14th, arriving in Southampton on the 22d. The opening ceremony was on July 29th, and the freestyle wrestling commenced the following day. The U.S. team's biggest challenges were lack of knowledge of international rules and the unpredictability of the refereeing. The first day went well for Henry, who came through with two pins and a unanimous decision. The second day was much

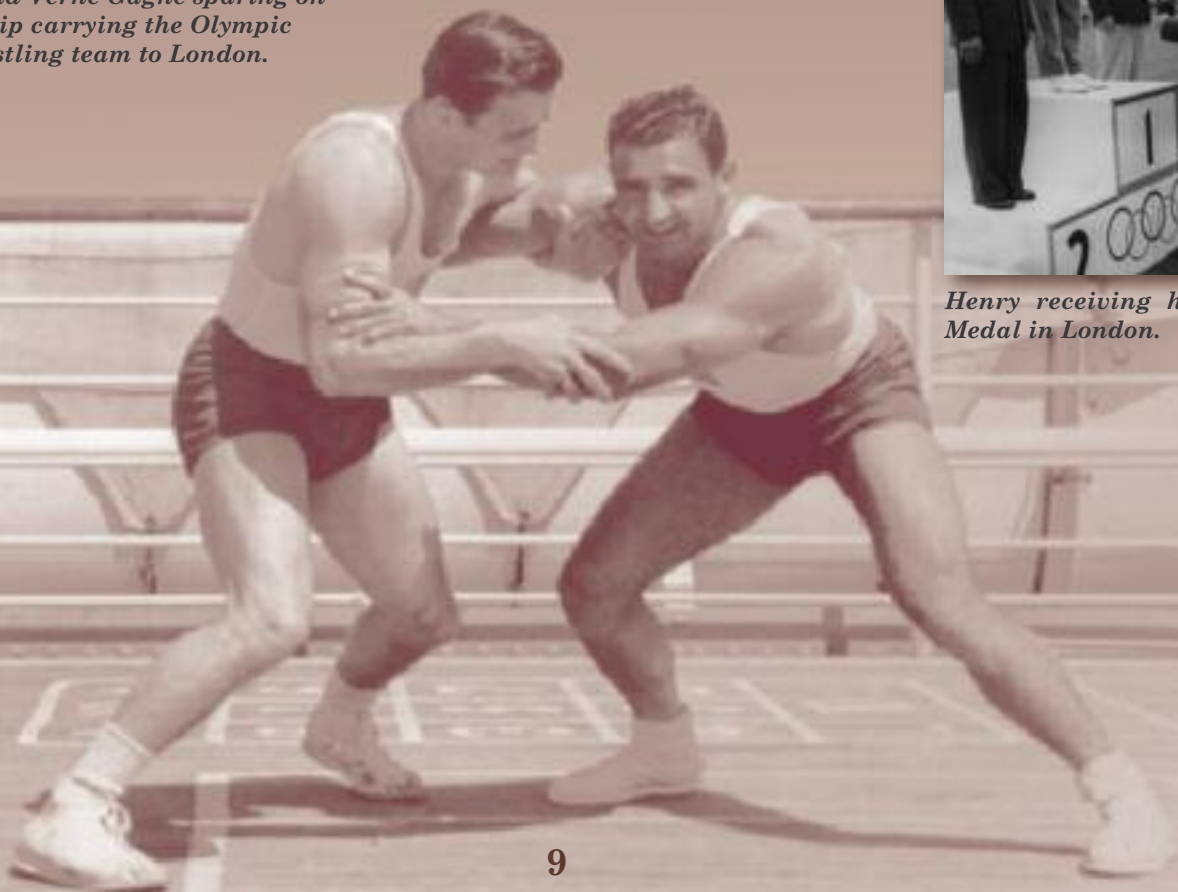
tougher. Due to a scheduling mix-up, he had to wrestle three bouts in the final session. He began with a pin. The next two were split decisions in his favor against the eventual second and third place finishers. In his last bout he separated his shoulder about halfway through the match but was ahead at the time, and although he tired, he hung in for the win. It was his toughest match.

The medal ceremony was on August 3d. He mounted the podium in Wembley Stadium and watched the Stars and Stripes go up before 70,000 people. The athletes were then feted at Buckingham Palace. Becoming Olympic champion and receiving the gold medal was a defining moment in Henry Wittenberg's life.

The next day Henry received a cable from Edith saying that his father was declining rapidly. He prevailed upon Avery Brundage, president of the U.S. Olympic Committee, to get him back to the U.S. as soon as possible. Brundage gave him permission to return early and arranged his flight home.

Henry arrived at New York's Idlewild Airport on August 9th, drove straight to his dad's apartment on upper Riverside Drive, and placed the gold medal in his dad's hand. Hours later, on August 10th, Rudolph Wittenberg died. It was a bittersweet moment. Call it the stuff of Hollywood screenplays.

Henry and Verne Gagne sparing on the ship carrying the Olympic wrestling team to London.



Henry receiving his Gold Medal in London.

JERRY SECKLER

Long Island's "Mr. Wrestling"

By Pascal Perri

During more than 70 years of active wrestling experience, I have been fortunate to have worked with a number of outstanding people, but no one has been more interesting or accomplished than Jerry Seckler, founder and President of the Friends of Long Island Wrestling (& Beyond)!

As a wrestler, coach, administrator, and promoter, no one I know has been his equal. His career has been one of many twists and turns and full of significant accomplishments.

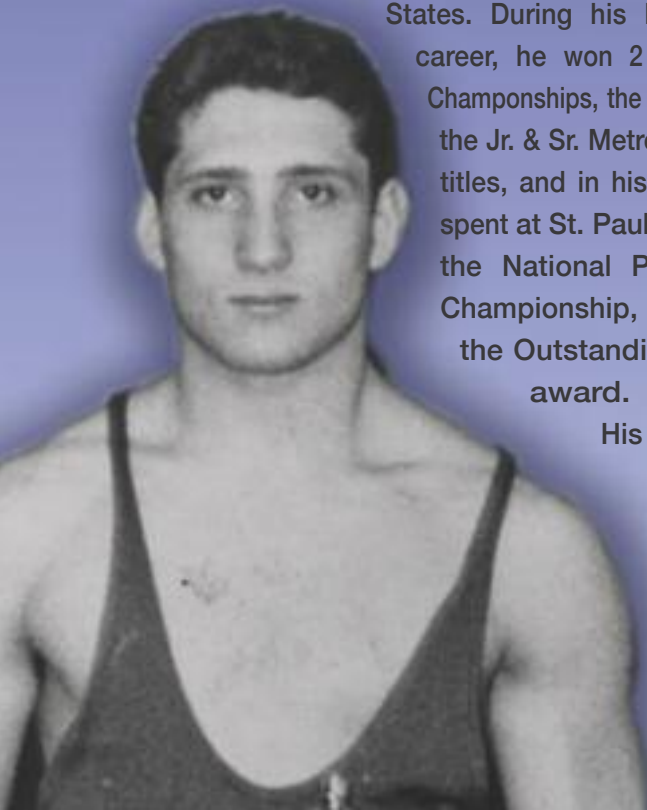
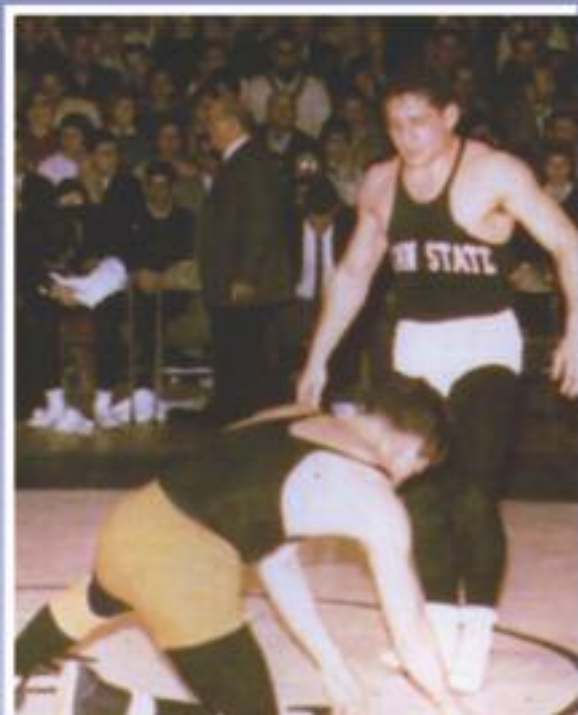
While still in grade school, Jerry and family moved from Brooklyn to Valley Stream. He knew nothing about wrestling until one day a faculty member saw him bouncing a ball in the hallway. After a brief conversation, Harold Earl, the great Valley Stream Central wrestler and coach, invited him to "come out for the wrestling team". It wasn't easy for a city kid, with no previous wrestling exposure, to get excited about such a demanding sport. But Jerry took to it like a duck to water. By his senior year, Jerry was recognized as one of the top wrestling prospects in the Eastern Region of the United States. During his High School career, he won 2 Long Island Champonships, the South Shores, the Jr. & Sr. Metropolitan AAU titles, and in his senior year, spent at St. Paul's Academy, the National Prep School Championship, as well as the Outstanding Wrestler award.



earned him sponsorship from the great Sprig Gardiner, and a full scholarship to Penn State University where Hall of Famer, Charlie Speidel was in dire need of a strong, versatile performer. At Penn State, Jerry wrestled anywhere from 145-177 lbs., usually wherever the opponents strongest performer was located. It wasn't easy for a natural 145 pounder to grapple with outstanding athletes, some 10-30 lbs bigger than him. But he did it with great success. Always a leader, in his senior year, he was elected captain of one of Penn State's strongest and most successful wrestling teams. Unfortunately, his college career was cut short by a serious and permanent shoulder injury.

But this injury did not end his enthusiasm for the sport of wrestling.

After graduation, he was hired as an assistant football, track and wrestling coach at Freeport High School. He loved his job, and had great success in developing young athletes. It wasn't long before he was invited by Columbia University to join their staff as head wrestling coach. He inherited a weak program that needed a great deal of skillful attention. Within the next few years, he managed to build a very competitive team that would give any opponent a battle on the mats, not a very easy accomplishment during the "crazy sixties", when the biggest challenge for any college



States. During his High School career, he won 2 Long Island Champonships, the South Shores, the Jr. & Sr. Metropolitan AAU titles, and in his senior year, spent at St. Paul's Academy, the National Prep School Championship, as well as the Outstanding Wrestler award.

His exceptional High School record

(Left) Jerry was a two-time Long Island Champion at Valley Stream Central H.S. before going on to Penn State University, where had a very successful career before a injury ended his career. The picture at right shows him after his final match.

coach was to keep his athletes in school and off drugs.

During his seven year tenure at Columbia University, his teams were always in contention for the “Ivy League Championship”. During his tenure, he also was elected President of the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association, an honor bestowed upon him by his fellow conference coaches.

Then came an offer that he couldn't refuse. In 1972, the Nassau County Executive appointed Jerry, Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. During the next 17 years he proved to be an able and effective administrator, responsible for more than 300 county employees and multi-million dollar, yearly budgets. As the result of his outstanding record of accomplishments, in 1990, Jerry was appointed Executive Director of the Nassau County Office of Cultural Development, making him responsible for more than one hundred cultural (music, art, celebrity, etc.) performances and programs annually. For eleven years, he did an outstanding job of bringing the world of culture to Nassau County, which included such personalities as Diahann Carroll, Bobby Vinton, Vic Damone, Frankie Laine, Robert Merrill, Henry Chapin, and many others. In 1996, he made a cultural trip to Russia, where he was treated with great respect by the Russian government and met many interesting people, some of them wrestling officianados.



Dan Gable and Jerry Seckler in 1975 with the poster announcing the double dual college meet at The Nassau County Coliseum.

During all those years, Jerry did not side track his devotion to amateur wrestling. He, along with Al Muller, and Al Butler, started the first “sleep over” wrestling camp on Long Island, at St. Paul's Academy. He founded the Newbridge Summer Tournament, that brought in athletes from all over the country and featured the most successful coaches in the sport (Sprig Gardiner, Harold Nichols, etc.). He established the first Double Dual event between the

nations top college wrestling teams, including Oklahoma, Lehigh, Michigan State, etc. at the Nassau Coliseum. He developed a number on international wrestling events including U.S.A. vs. Russia, at Hofstra University, and at Nassau Community College. And the list goes on.

In addition, when the Hofstra Wrestling program was on the way out, Jerry was instrumental in saving it. He got to the right people, and teamed up with Joseph Margiotta. It was mainly through their efforts, that the program was saved and is flourishing today. His outstanding achievement!

For years, Jerry dreamed of creating a wrestling organization on Long Island to promote and support amateur wrestling, as well as to honor Long Island's wrestling greats. In 1990, his dream became a reality when, with a few close associates, he founded “*The Friends of Long Island Wrestling*”. It wasn't long before the “Friends” was recognized by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, out of

Stillwater, OK., when Myron Roderick, invited Jerry to take over all of New York State as the certified State Chapter for the Hall. Realizing that Downstate NY, which included Long Island,



On a trip to Moscow, Jerry had the occasion to visit the museum on the spot that the German advance on the city during World War 2 was halted. With him are Yury Goryachev, Soviet General Secretary; Vladimir Zakharov, a Colonel General in the Russian Armed Force; and the Russian artist who designed and painted the “Berlin Diorama” they are standing in front of.

Staten Island, Metro N.Y., and Westchester, had more wrestling than most states, Jerry wisely opted to settle for the New York, Downstate Chapter, of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, which is recognized today as one of the premier state chapters in the country. For more than 20 years, the Friends of Long Island Wrestling has functioned as one of the most effective wrestling organizations in the nation. Operating strictly with non-paid volunteers, this group has raised funds to support a laundry list of activities and programs that have helped to grow, promote, and preserve amateur wrestling, not only locally, but also throughout the nation.

To date, the Friends have initiated the induction of more than 100 outstanding wrestling greats into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, in Stillwater, OK. They have created an annual National Wrestling publication that is received by every college/university in the nation that supports an active wrestling program, in addition to many thousands of supporting fans from Maine to California.

Each year, their Induction/Reunion Dinner is the largest in the country, always featuring a nationally known personality such as Kerry McCoy, Rob Koll, LeRoy Smith, Billy Baldwin, etc. Their annual Golf Outing is hosted by a camaraderie of famous people including Dan Gable and Cael Sanderson.

Their sponsors step forward each year with funds and support to keep the organization strong and effective. Mike DerGarabedian, Noel Thompson, Nick Gallo, Neil Duncan, Joe Settineri, Ira Nathel, Bethpage Federal Credit Union, and others.

All and much more under the leadership of Jerry Seckler. When asked, "What next?", Jerry pulls out his notebook, which contains a dozen pages of his plans and ideas that will continue to promote, grow, and support the sport that he has devoted so much to, for so many years.

AUTHORS NOTE:

I first noticed Jerry Seckler when he was an 8th grade student wrestling on the varsity team at Valley Steam Central High School. His aggressive and fearless style caught my attention. During the next ten years, I officiated a number of his wrestling bouts in high school, college, and open tournaments. He always impressed me with his determination and wrestling skills. He never backed away, no matter who the opponent might be— and he wrestled a number of champion performers— including an international winner on the Japanese All Star touring team.

As time went on, I got to know more about Jerry- the man. Off the mats, he is just as aggressive and fearless in everything he does. His integrity, determination, loyalty and work ethic mark him as a very special person.



Jerry Seckler, Dan Gable, and Pascal Perri at one of the Friends of Long Island golf outings where Dan served as guest host. The annual golf outing is just one of the many activities that "The Friends" sponsor each year.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

By Mike Davey

All coaches hope their athletes become successful after their wrestling days are over, but it's not surprising when many of them do become successful. The obvious reason is the grueling amount of time and dedication involved in our sport. Many translate time and dedication into their future endeavors. I'd like to profile a few of my former wrestlers who have become successful in their individual areas of expertise locally, regionally, and nationally.

LOCAL: The first two are the Friedman Brothers, Ron and Joel. Ron graduated from South Side in 1989. He was the captain of the team in his senior year. He won the South Side Tournament, placed 2nd in the qualifier and received the Cyclone Scholarship Award. He attended Rutgers University, wrestling all four years and was captain in his senior year. Ron is now a very successful lawyer and managing partner for the prestigious law firm, Silverman Acampora LLP. Joel graduated in 1994 after having one of the most successful wrestling careers in South Side's history. He still holds the school record for most wins (118). He placed 3rd in Nassau County in his junior year and won the counties in his senior year. He lost in the finals of the state tournament in a very close match. Joel wrestled for Harvard where he placed 3 times in the EIWA tournament and became a national qualifier. He now owns and runs his own business, Clearview Capital Management. He is married to Jamie (Jansen) who takes care of their two sons, Skylar and Blake.

Ron and Joel put their time, energy, brains, and money into a major project in Eisenhower Park. They put up a 15 million dollar ice hockey rink. Twin Rinks was recently opened in grand fashion with an ice show that featured several current and former Olympians. There are two separate ice rinks inside and construction is nearly finished on an outdoor rink.

REGION: Dan Liburd graduated in 2002. He was a runner-up in the qualifier and lost in the county tournament just before the placement

round. I still remember finding him in the hallway of Nassau Community College where he was sitting on the floor visibly upset. All he said to me was "you were right coach, the four years went too fast." Dan attended Boston University with a degree in Exercise

Science. He got his Masters Degree at Springfield College with a concentration in strength training and conditioning. After working at a couple of workout clubs he moved on to Springfield College as a graduate associate and then to American International College as a strength trainer. His hard work and dedication to his craft paid off and landed him in his present position as a strength and conditioning staff member with the Buffalo Bills. Dan is currently in his sixth year with the Bills.

When he can Dan participates in Ironman contests and also runs in marathons. He recently raised \$5,000 for Children's Tumor Foundation over a two month period.

NATIONAL: My final wrestler is Ian Kaplan. Ian graduated South Side High School in 1996 as one of the most dominant wrestlers in Nassau County. In his senior year, he won every tournament he entered. His only loss was in the State Final which was a very controversial match. His opponent was allowed to take three time-outs. Ian's senior year record was 36-1 with 32 pins. He went on to wrestle at Davidson College for four years and was a two time National Qualifier.

After delving into Ecology and Environmental Management, Ian became interested in birds and Ornithology. While working at the Museum of Natural History in Charlotte, NC, he became very interested in Entomology (study of insects). He then he got his masters degree in the field at Auburn University and is now an Assistant Professor at Predue. It was here that Ian's work drew national attention. Ian was one

of 96 United States researchers who received the Presidential Early Career Award for scientists and engineers.



Ron & Joel Friedman



Dan Liburd



Ian Kaplan

CONGRATULATIONS TO SACHEM EAST HIGH SCHOOL



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Sachem East Wins The 2014 Pascal Perri Cup

Recognized as the top High School Wrestling team in the Downstate region of New York State. This prestigious award is based on team dual meet and tournament records, caliber of competition, plus over all deportment/sportsmanship. The selection is made by an independent committee of seven outstanding High School wrestling experts representing Long Island, Metro New York, Westchester, and Staten Island. Each committee member votes by secret ballot for the top three teams in order of preference. The committee does not meet to discuss the candidates for this outstanding honor.

The award was presented to coach Isaac Ramaswamy and members of the Sachem East Wrestling Team at the annual Hall of Fame Induction Dinner held at the Marriot Hotel, Melville, NY on April 24th. An audience of more than 500

honored the recipients with a standing ovation. In addition to this honor, Isaac Ramaswamy was also inducted into the National Hall of Fame in 2014 for "Lifetime Service to Wrestling" at this gala affair.

How Sachem East earned the Pascal Perri Cup:

Dual Meet Record: 15-0 undefeated - 2014

52-1 over past 3 years

Tournament Record 2014:

Section XI — Champions

League I —Dual Meet Champions

League I —Tournament Champions

Individual Honors 2014:

All League: 4 Champions • 13 Place Winners

All County: 2 Champions/OW •7 Place Winners



2014 Hall of Fame inductee, Coach Isaac Ramaswamy (front row second from left) and members of the Sachem East Wrestling program are pictured after receiving the 2nd annual PASCAL PERRI CUP awarded to the top-rated Down State NY High School wrestling team. The Trophy is named after Mr. Perri (top right), a legendary high school and collegiate wrestler and official who is a board member of The Friends of Long Island Wrestling and a member of The National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

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HAUPPAUGE LOOKING TO CONTINUE 25-0 SEASON

By Chris Messina

The Hauppauge wrestling team has high hopes for another successful season with the team returning for the 2014-15 season. Although hit hard with graduation the past two years, Hauppauge has found a way to stay competitive with hopes of getting much help from their underclassmen.



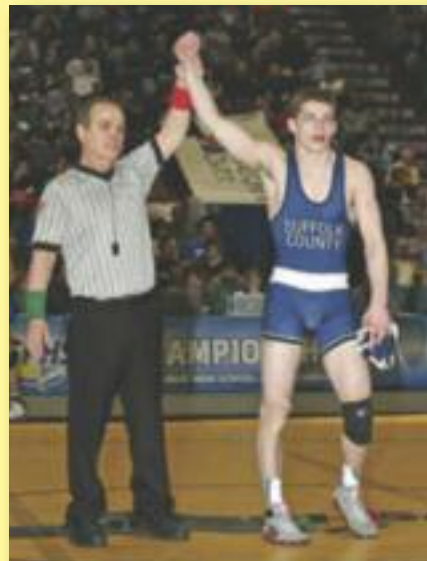
The Eagles finished the 2013-14 year Undefeated at 25-0, along with winning the Sprig Gardner tournament, Center Moriches, West Islip and Newburgh Dual meet tournaments, as well as winning the League IV Dual meet and tournament titles. Hauppauge also finished the season ranked third in NYS as well as placing third in the Annual Eastern States Classic.

Leading the team this year will be Junior Chris Mauriello. Chris is virtually re-writing the Hauppauge history books with his NYS and Suffolk County championship at 132lbs. His current varsity record of 162 wins places him in position to shatter the All-Time career wins of 165, set by Justin Iannello in 2001. He has won four League tournament championships along with many tournament titles over the years. Chris is currently ranked in the top-ten of the USA wrestling polls. Hauppauge will also look to several underclassmen who continue to excel in Suffolk County. Sophomore, Ben Tepperman and Freshman, Jake Silverstein both placed in the Suffolk tournament at 4th and 5th respectively. Tepperman won the league IV title, winning 38 matches during the season and Silverstein placed second in the league, amassing 40 wins for the year. The seniors appear ready to enter the history

books with a Suffolk County placement, led by Francisco Bisono, John Donohue, Anthony Ottaviano, Rick Panciroli, and Alex Donnarumma. Donohue is a returning league champion with 37 victories during the year while Donnarumma finished as league IV runner-up with Bisono and Ottaviano both placing. Underclassmen, Justin Seay (9th) and Heavyweight John Munro (10th) will also be in the line-up helping the Eagles quest for a Suffolk county title along with senior's Dan Smith and Nick Kurz. Seay, had an excellent year winning 26 matches as an 8th grader, placed in the league tournament and looks to be a dark horse as the season progresses. Adding to Hauppauge's depth will be Marcus Bisono at 170lbs.-182lbs. Bisono, a junior is a transfer from Virginia, has the potential to make an immediate mark in the Suffolk County tournament. Hoping to break into the line-up include, Danny Mauriello, Darren Brophy, Frank Ragone, Biagio Mendola, Steven Holder, Mikail Tran, Nick Giannotti and Cristisan Garlarza.

League four will prove to be very competitive with power-house North Babylon, Centerach and Bellport moving into the league. East Islip will definitely be a force led by NYS Runner-up Jesse Dellavecchia, along with several other returning league place winners. With the newly formed Suffolk County dual meet championship set, the year will definitely be a barn-burner. Competitions such as the Center Moriches, West Islip, Massapequa and tough Eastern States tournaments, Hauppauge will be ready

for the post season tournaments and hopefully another successful season.



Top left picture-The undefeated 2013-2014 league IV dual meet and tournament champions Hauppauge High School wrestling team.

Bottom left-132 lb. Suffolk County and New York State Champion, Junior, Chris Mauriello is on track to break the school record for career wins.

The 2014 Long Island NYS Champions



Top Row (left to right) CHRIS MAURIELLO, Hauppauge; LUIS HERNANDEZ, Mepham
SHAKUR RASHEED, Longwood; STEVEN SCHNEIDER, MacArthur; MARK TRACY, Sachem East
JAMES O'HAGAN, Seaford

Bottom Row (left to right) JACORI TEEMER, Long Beach; MATTEO DeVINCENZO, Port Jefferson
HUNTER DUSOLD, Locust Valley; VITO ARUJAU, Syosset, NICK PICCININNI, Ward Melville
TRAVIS PASSARO, Eastport-Southmanor

2014 NEW YORK STATE CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION WRESTLING CHAMPIONS



*Front Row (left to right) B. KELLY St, Anthony's; J. JAVIER, Kellenberg Memorial
J. TWOMEY, St. Anthony's; B. LAMANTIA, St. Anthony's; J. ROSS, St. Anthony's
A. SANTORO, Fordham Prep; F. DUNAU, St. Anthony's; K. WIESNER, Monsignor Farrell
Tor Row (left to right) A. FERRARIE, Mt. St. Michael; A. PRYOR, St. Anthony's
R. JONES, St. Joseph Collegiate, C. WATSON, Chaminade; M. NEWMAN, Monsignor Farrell
R. SISTI, Monsignor Farrell; P. CORBETT, St. Anthony's*

MOST OUTSTANDING WRESTLER

Division 1—R. SISTI

Division 2—JACOB BRAUNSCHIDER, St. Francis

TEAM CHAMPIONS

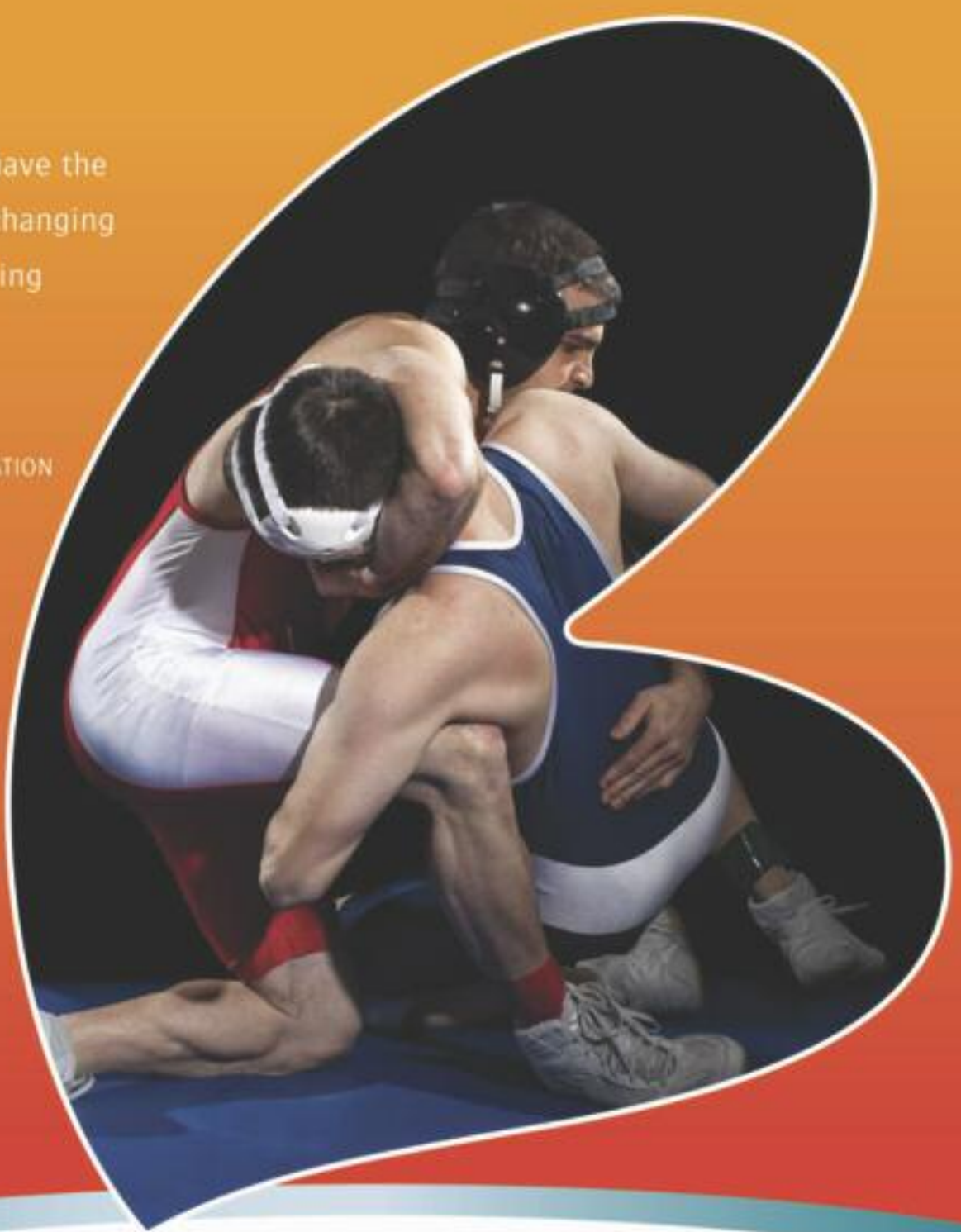
Division 1—ST. ANTHONY'S

Division 2—St. FRANCISs

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THE MAT SLAP'S 2015 PROJECTIONS FOR LONG ISLAND WRESTLERS

BY JIM & TONY NORDLAND

LONG ISLAND RETURNS SEVEN STATE CHAMPIONS 16 NYS Place Winners Also In The Field.

The Long Island contingent should be dominant on the mats for the up coming 2014-2015 season. Six reigning and one former State Champion headline the squads that should claim another state sectional title. Long Island Wrestling has won a combined total of thirty-one sectional team titles: Suffolk with 22 and Nassau with 9 championships. This year should be no exception.



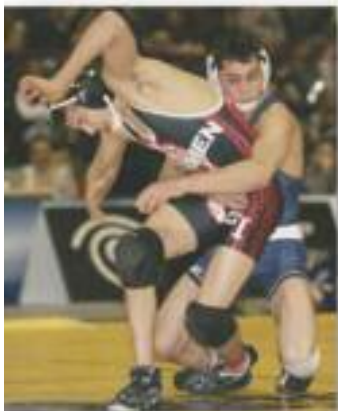
KYLE QUINN



CHRIS MAURIELLO



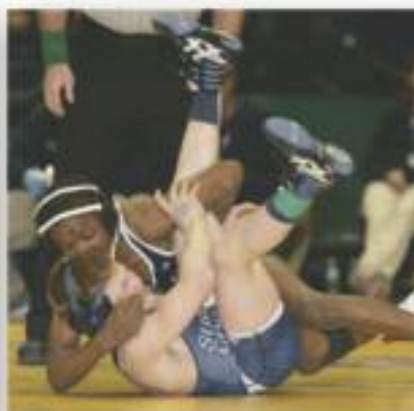
MATT De VINCENZO



NICK PICCININNI



VITO ARUJAU



JACORI TEEMER



HUNTER DUSOLD

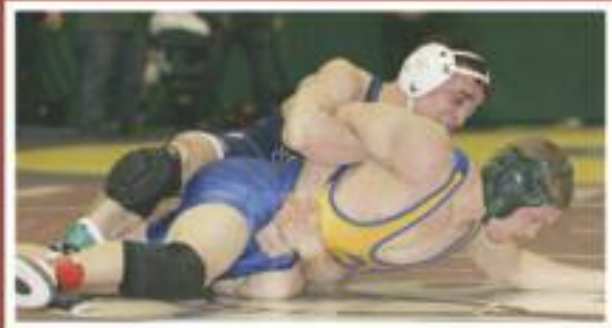
Three – time state king, and four-time state placer **Nick Piccininni** (188 – 3) of Ward Melville is on track to claim his fourth state crown. **Piccininni**, is the top-rated 126 pounder in the nation and will take his mat skills to Oklahoma State next season to wrestle under the tutelage of the legendary coach John Smith. The other returning Suffolk Champions are **Matteo DeVincenzo** of Port Jefferson (34-1) last season, now at 120, and **Chris Mauriello** of Hauppauge(162-17) who projects to be in the 160 – pound class. Both are juniors and favorites for repeat State titles.

The Nassau champions are freshmen **Jacori Teemer** of Long Beach (62-2) at 106. **Vito Arujau** of Syosset (94-1) at 120 and Locust Valley sophomore **Hunter Dusold** (35-7) at either 120 or 126. Wantagh's **Kyle Quinn** a State Champion in 2012 with a record of (125-14) could also be at 120.

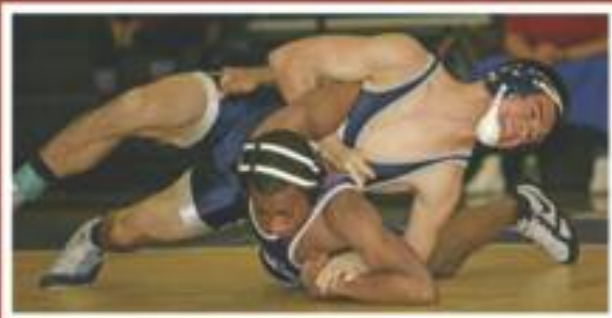
Six other state finalists seek championships this season.

That elite group includes freshman **Adam Busiello** of East Port – South Manor, Locust Valley sophomore **Jonathan Gomez**, a cadet All - American at 113, along with tough **Peter Pappas** a sophomore from Plainview at 113 pounds. Other silver medalists are **Jessie Dellavecchia** of East Islip, **Jacob Restrepo** of Sachem East at 152 and Walt Whitman's **Vin Feola** in the 220 pound class. Returning state bronze medalists are **Ben Lamantia** of St Anthony's, two time placer **Mike D'Angelo** of Commack, **Brad Wade** of Islip, Locust Valley standout **Sam Ward**, a two-time Division II state medalist at either 145 or 152 pounds. Other state place winners that will be in the hunt for gold medals include **Anthony Sparacio** of North Babylon a Suffolk Champion at 106, **Nick Casella** a 2012 State finalist from Locust Valley, **Tristin DeVincenzo** of Port Washington, Harvard bound and two time placer **Tommy Dutton** of Rocky Point and, **Jake Einbinder** 152 of Bethpage, and Deer Parks **David Hamil** in the 182 lb. class. Defending Nassau Champions that will vie for state awards are **Raeco Jackson** of Westbury and **Ricky Stamm** of Levittown Division. **Owen Bachelder**, a 2012 champion from Hewlett could be at 138. Nassau finalists to watch will be freshmen **Jonathan low** from Wantagh, **Joel Zambrano** of Mepham, **Tom Lane** of Garden City and **Hamza Ramza** from Lawrence.

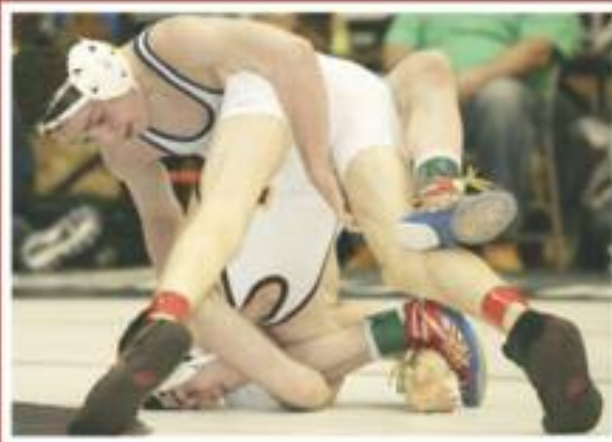
Suffolk reigning champs include **John Arceri** Huntington and **Edwin Rubio** of John Glenn at 285. County finalists that will be in the mix are **Tom Cox** Deer Park and **Anthony Cirillo** Rocky Point , **Matt Porello** John Glenn and **Lantze Lange** Smithtown East.



THOMAS DUTTON



OWEN BACHELDER



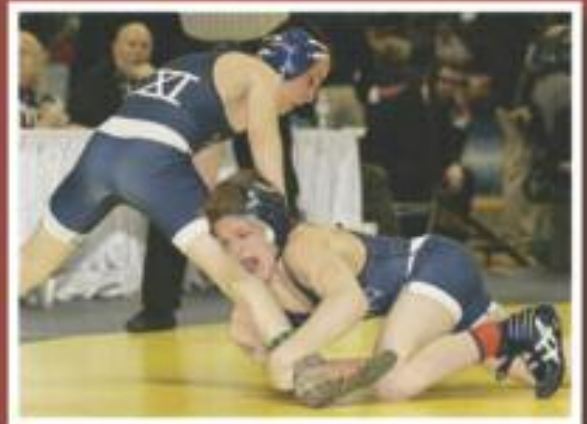
JOHN ARCERI



JACOB RESTREPO



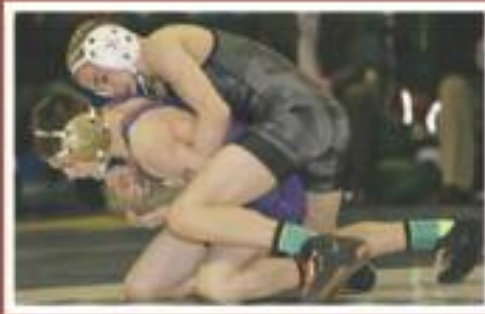
MIKE D'ANGELO



JESSE DELLAVECCHIA



VIN FEOLA



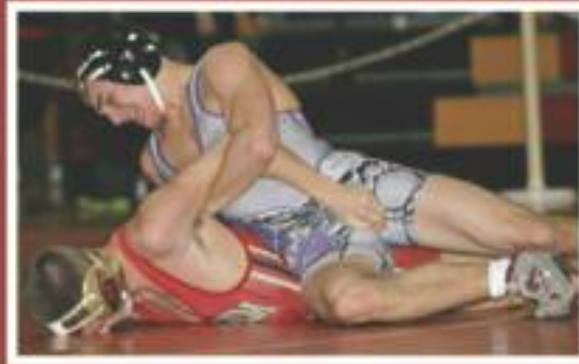
JONATHAN GOMEZ



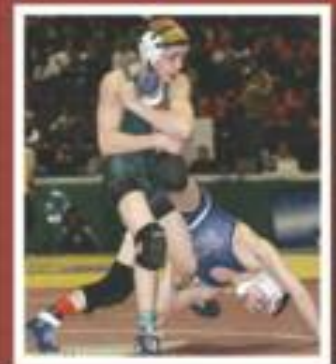
ANTHONY SPARACIO



ADAM BUSIELLO



BRAD WADE



PETER PAPPAS



EDWIN RUBINO



NICK CASELLA

HOFSTRA WRESTLING

2014-2015

By Jim Sheehan

When Dennis Papadatos heard that his friend and former teammate Rob Anspach was resigning his position as head coach of the Pride to enter private business last June, the former North Carolina, Binghamton and Northern Illinois assistant coach wasted little time in letting Hofstra Vice President and Director of Athletics Jeffrey A. Hathaway know of his great interest in the job. After all, Papadatos was a Long Island native, a two-time graduate of Hofstra, a two-time NCAA Championship qualifier for the Pride, and wrestled and coached under Tom Ryan, who brought the program back to prominence during his 11-year tenure with the Pride.

After a national review of candidates, Hathaway selected the energetic Papadatos as Hofstra's 12th head wrestling coach in school history in August and the new coach hit the ground running, eager to install his coaching system, both philosophically and culturally. While Papadatos lost five starters, including three of the Pride's four 2014 NCAA Championship qualifiers to graduation last May, Anspach left a core of 12 returnees, with five starters, and a solid group of red-shirts and newcomers.

starting role in one of the upper weights. "I am really excited about seeing what this core group can do for us this season," Papadatos says.

But that leaves Papadatos with five weight classes in which to identify a starter from a group of talented red-shirts and eight newcomers. The first-year coach will be looking to fill vacant spots at 125, 133, 165, 184 and 197 pounds and get them battle-tested and ready for the EIWA and, hopefully, the NCAA Championships in March. "To be successful this season, we have to continue the preseason work ethic while changing the culture and mindset. We have to continue to work hard to be the best that we can be. I want our guys to be strong on the mat and in the classroom. Our goals this season are to have a 3.0 team GPA, to be in the top three at the EIWA Championships, and to get five wrestlers to nationals with at least one of those five to be competing on Saturday for All-America honors," said Papadatos.

Hofstra's 17-match schedule includes seven contests against opponents that finished in the top 20 at the 2014 NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships in Oklahoma City, OK last March.



Leading the group is the lone returning NCAA Championship qualifier, graduate-student Cody Ruggirello. The 149-pound qualifier, who placed fourth in Hofstra's inaugural season in the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA), recorded a career-best 26-12 mark last season while also earning National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) All-Academic team honors.

Ruggirello will be joined by a group of fellow returning starters – all sophomores – in Jamel Hudson, who is expected to move up from 133 pounds to 141 this season; Jahlani Calender at 157 pounds; Frank Affronti at 174 pounds; and Michael Hughes, the only true sophomore in the group, at 285. In addition, two-year starter Jermaine John, who missed last season with an injury, also returns and will be looking for a

Hofstra will face three of those opponents – Oklahoma, Cornell and Virginia Tech at home. The Sooners placed 10th at the NCAA Championships last season, while the Big Red was seventh overall. The Pride close the regular season with a meeting against the Hokies, who finished eighth at nationals a season ago.

The Pride face Missouri, which placed 14th at the NCAAs, and North Carolina State, which was 19th, at the Journeyman/Asics Northeast Duals and then meet Maryland at The Grapple at the Garden. The Terrapins finished 20th at the NCAA Championships in 2014.

Hofstra's lone true road contest against a top-20 NCAA Championship team will come at Lehigh in the second dual match of the season and in the Pride's EIWA opener. Lehigh placed 18th at the NCAA Championships last season.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO BUILD A TEAM

By Mike Candel

The record is nothing short of spectacular. After 18 years as the head coach of Nassau Community College, Paul Schmidt has become an icon in junior college wrestling circles. His teams have won six NJCAA championships. They have placed second in the nation twice and third three times. Do the math. Twelve times in 18 years, Schmidt's teams have finished first, second or third in the country. It is an astounding accomplishment.

So you might think this story will extoll more achievements of Nassau's head coach and the dynasty he has developed. It won't. This isn't about the Paul Schmidt. Indeed, it is a love song to his assistants. His extraordinary group of assistants coaches who work in the shadows but who have had as much to do with Nassau's success as its head coach.

"You could make the case that at times we've had the best collegiate coaching staff in the country," Schmidt said. "And I'm not just talking about junior colleges. I'm talking about four-year colleges, too. How many staffs have had a national champion and a world champion working with the team at the same time?"

Schmidt was referring to former longtime assistant coach Chris Edmond, who was an NCAA Division I champion at Tennessee and longtime current assistant Vougar Orounjov, who was a two-time world champion in his native Russia before coming to the United States.

"When you have a world champ and a national champ sitting at matside with you it's smart to take a step back and let them coach," Schmidt said. "I'll see something and before I can say anything, Vougar or Chris are way ahead of me. They've already said it." Both men are master technicians and over the years it has not been unusual to find them competing on the mat during practice sessions. "Our lighter weight kids compete with Vougar day in and out. That's why so many of them have become all-Americans."

So extraordinary were Edmond's contributions at Nassau that this year he is being inducted into the New York State Wrestling Hall of Fame for his work as an "ASSISTANT COACH" this year. Three years ago, Orounjov was named the National Junior College Coach of the Year, the only time an assistant coach has earned that award.

And then there's Sam Thomas, the third longtime member of Nassau's assistant coaching corps. "Sam's been with us for 15 years," Schmidt said. Aside from his technical knowledge, Thomas is an expert on Suffolk high school wrestling. "His connections in Suffolk have paid big dividends for us. I rely on his knowledge about what kids we should recruit." While Edmond left the staff three years

ago, Schmidt has added a couple of young assistants. Mac Malderelli was a standout at Lock Haven and Tyshawn Scarlett had a superb career at Pitt. Both are also products of Nassau CC.

"They're young and our athletes can relate to them," Schmidt said. "Heck, they listen to the same music." Suffice it to say, they're not listening to Frank Sinatra or Dean Martin when they turn the music on during the Lions' intense practice sessions.

Although the Lions lack the depth of recent years, Schmidt believes his talented coaching staff can forge another successful season.

Charlie Weiss, a freshman from Florida, could surprise at 125 pounds. Another newcomer, Joe Russ out of St. Anthony's High School, seems set at 133. The 141 and 149 pound classes will be handled by a pair of freshmen, Mark West (Hauppauge) and James Leach (Eastport Manor). Ironically, the two faced off for the Suffolk County title last winter. West was the winner and went on to take the state championship. Since both wrestle at 141, rather than sitting one on the bench, Schmidt plans to move one of them to 149.

Sam Schwartzapfel, another former Hauppauge county champ, transferred from Hofstra and will wrestle at 157. Brooklyn native Duley Espinal, a transfer from Edinboro, will start at 165, and the lone returning sophomore, Zakaria Small (East Islip), will handle the 174-pound class.

Schmidt is still searching for a good fit at 184. However, the Lions are set at 197 with redshirt freshman Freddy Vidal (Westbury) and at heavyweight with Jenard Rosemond, a former county champ at Calhoun. Nassau's roster could get deeper and more talented, especially in the upper weight

classes, if several prospects become eligible at the end of the semester.

The Lions will face their usual challenging schedule including a duel match with NCAA power, Missouri. The Tigers are currently ranked No. 6 in Division I. It is curious that Missouri, one of the top teams in the nation, would come to New York State to wrestle Nassau at the Journeyman Classic but some of the local Long Island colleges decline to wrestle against the Lions.

So, as Schmidt and his grapplers prepare for another arduous season, the head coach knows he'll have lots of help. He will have Vougar to teach the kind of world-class intensity that breeds success. He will have Thomas to provide expertise on the mat and on the recruiting road. He will have Malderelli bring energy and rap music.

And in April, when the season is over, Paul Schmidt will be inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. It will be his name on the plaque but he knows

HE DIDN'T GET THERE ALONE!!



Paul and long time assistant, Vougar Orounjov, a former World Champion, have had remarkable success at NCC.

COLUMBIA WRESTLING

By Gabriel J. Gilson

One of the most successful programs at Columbia University is back in action this winter, as the Lion's wrestling team returns to the mat in November, for the 2014-15 season.

Columbia is one of the few programs in the country that is lucky enough to have three endowed coaches on its staff. Carl Fronhofer is in his seventh year at Columbia, and enters his fourth season as the Andrew F. Barth Head Coach of Wrestling. Fronhofer is assisted by Roman Fleszar and Adam Hall. The trio has remained in tact since Hall joined Fronhofer and Fleszar in the fall of 2011. Over the past three seasons, the staff has guided 18 members to a place winner finish at the EIWA's, as well as having 14 wrestlers take home All-Ivy League honors.

This season, Fronhofer is excited to announce that former All-American Steve Santos '13CC has joined his staff as a volunteer assistant coach. From 2009-13, the Brick, New Jersey, native put together an impressive record of 91-37 at 149 pounds, highlighted by a third place finish at the NCAA Wrestling Championships in his senior season of 2013.

With three of four NCAA Championships qualifiers returning to compete in 2014-15, the Lions are in a good place to retain the success the program has seen over the last three seasons.

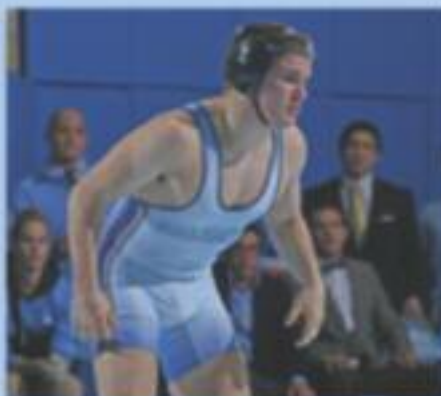
Columbia is coming off of a 2013-14 season in which it saw four members qualify for the NCAA Championships.



2014-15 Columbia University Wrestling Team hopes to build on the success of last year's team that featured 4 NCAA qualifiers.



Junior, Angelo Amenta is coming off a season that saw him earn an All-Ivy League selection and post a 21-11 record, including a 5th place finish in the EIWA Championships



Markus Scheidel looks to improve on an impressive first-year campaign, a 27-12 record on the mat that featured 10 major decisions, and a trip to Oklahoma City for the NCAA's.



Senior, Shane Hughes earned an at large bid to the NCAA's after posting a 20-8 record that included a stretch of 18 wins in 19 matches down the final portion of the 2013-14 season.

Nat Pendelton

COLUMBIA'S OLYMPIC STAR

The subject of a new book by Mike Chapman

Surely, very few wrestling people know the name today, but Nat Pendleton of Columbia University was one of the truly great figures in early American wrestling. Nat was born on August 9, 1895, in Davenport, Iowa. His family moved east when Nat was very young and he learned how to wrestle in back yards and in small YMCAs.

Nat was a direct descendant of Nathaniel Greene, one of the most prominent and highly-regarded generals in the Revolutionary War, and was named for him. It was also a family tradition that Francis Scott Key, who wrote the Star Spangled Banner, was a relative of the Pendleton clan.

Little is known of Nat's early athletic achievements prior to enrolling at Columbia University in the fall of 1912. He wasn't able to bring with him any fancy titles, such as state high school champion because scholastic sports were in their infancy, and New York didn't even begin a state tournament for high school wrestlers until 1963.

Pendleton attended Poly Prep (Polytechnic Institute), a well-known high school in Brooklyn now called Poly Prep Country Day School. He was often referred to as "the former Poly Prep star" by the Brooklyn Daily Eagle newspaper and it appears that he may have actually started the wrestling program there, or at the least was the primary factor in such a program being developed.

"Pendleton was a pupil of George Bothner before he captained the Columbia University wrestling team, and was taking lessons when he introduced wrestling at the Poly Prepin Brooklyn in 1910," said Thomas Rice in an article from the Brooklyn Daily Eagle on February 26, 1921.

The Bothner gym was owned and operated by the man that many experts consider the greatest lightweight wrestler of all time. Thin and scrappy, Bothner had a long and distinguished career as both a wrestler and instructor. Training at Bothner's gym exposed Pendleton to some of the best wrestlers in the country and provided a background that would propel him to stardom.

With his dark good looks, outgoing personality and powerful physique, Pendleton soon became one of the best known figures on the Columbia campus. He joined the Delta Upsilon fraternity and by all accounts was a voracious reader who wrote poetry and enjoyed engaging others in lively conversations. In college, he began a lifelong interest in chess and became good enough that he once won a tournament. His major field of study was economics and he

developed an interest in the subject that would serve him well the rest of his life.

Pendleton never lost a full match in college (he was disqualified once when both wrestlers fell into the crowd), served as captain of the 1915 team, and won two Eastern Intercollegiate championships. This was before the days of

the NCAA tournament, but he captured AAU national titles at 175 pounds in 1916 and at heavyweight in 1920.

His crowning achievement came in 1920 at the Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium. He claimed the silver medal in the heavyweight division, but both his coach, George Pinneo, and one teammate, Fred Meyer, said he was cheated out of the gold medal....that he was clearly the better wrestler in the finals but a referee's decision went to Robert Roth of Switzerland.

"This was the worst decision ever," wrote Meyer to wrestling historian Don Sayenga nearly 60 years later. "Pendleton was the winner of the contest, no ifs or buts." Myer spoke from a position of authority as he placed third in the same weight class in Antwerp, behind Roth and Pendleton.

In his official report after the competition, Pinneo wrote: "The decision which took the final match from Mr. Pendleton was probably the most unpopular of many unsatisfactory decisions."

Pendleton did much of his post-college training at the New York Athletic Club, and one of his main workout partners was a tough young man from the Astoria section of New York named Paul Berlenbach, a semi-literate taxi cab driver. The two became friends but Berlenbach was not



Nat Pendleton in a "stylized" pose

eligible to join the NYAC, which had a strict code of acceptance.

Pendleton went to NYAC officials and talked them into letting the taxi driver become a member and they both made the 1920 Olympic team. Berlenbach was at 176 pounds but was injured and missed the competition. (As a side note, Berlenbach won AAU national titles in 1922 and '23, and also took up boxing, winning several amateur titles and then turning professional. In 1925, he captured the world light heavyweight boxing championship and eventually wound up in the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York)

After the Olympics, Pendleton decided to become a professional wrestler. His childhood hero was Frank Gotch, the Iowa farmer who in 1908 won the world heavyweight championship from the legendary Russian Lion, George

Hackenschmidt. Gotch's stunning victory made him the No. 1 sports hero in the country.

The pro wrestling of that era was still largely a true athletic contest between two well-trained and tough men, with the primary emphasis on joint lock submissions and pinning holds. Endurance was also a key factor as matches often lasted an hour or more. Theatrics had not yet been introduced into the sport and the top stars of the day drew large crowds, especially in New York City. Pendleton saw an opportunity to use his superb athletic skills to make some big money.

After two years of professional wrestling, Pendleton was undefeated and considered a top contender for the world heavyweight title, held by Ed "Strangler" Lewis. At one point, Nat's manager issued a challenge to Lewis for the world title, and also challenged Jack Dempsey, the king of boxing, to a no-holds-barred match.... a forerunner of today's mixed martial arts.

But Nat's promising pro career came to a skidding halt on January 25, 1923, when he suffered a stunning loss to a submission expert named John Pesek!

Clarence Eklund was the light heavyweight champion of the era and is considered one of the finest pure technicians ever. In a 1993 biography, Eklund talked about the match between Pesek and Pendleton, held in Boston, and which remains to this day one of the most discussed matches in pro wrestling history:

"When the 'Golden Age of Sports' arrived during the 1920s, John Pesek had reached the peak of his career," wrote Eklund. "He was so skilled, fast, tough and vicious that he was now known to the world as the Nebraska Tigerman. But this hard-nosed success also brought great disappointment. None of the other top wrestlers wanted to risk their reputation by getting in the ring with the Nebraska tiger.

"Now also on the scene at the time were several other wrestlers of lesser fame but who were tough enough that the champions did not care to wrestle them. Four of them were the Finnish champion Moss Leitmen; Marin Plestina, the great Slav; Charlie Hanson, and the Olympic champion (sic) Nat Pendleton."

Pesek disposed of Leitmen and Plestina in devastating fashion, adding roughhouse tactics to his vast wrestling skills, and leaving Pendleton next in line. It was to be a "winner take all" proposition, with a time limit of 75 minutes. The victor would walk away with a \$6,000 guarantee and a percentage of the gate, while the loser would leave town with nothing but bruises and bad memories. The average annual salary for a working man in the U.S. at the time was around \$2,500, so it was a very lucrative offer.

"Throng of Boston fans who lined up for the event did not believe any man in the world could throw Pendleton, a world-class athlete and wrestler, twice in 75 minutes. To win, Pendleton would simply need to avoid a pin fall and keep out of the clutches of Pesek's dangerous submission holds," said the writer of a 2013 biography of John Pesek.

The bout was fairly even until the 35-minute mark when Pesek secured a tight toehold and began applying unbearable pressure. In desperation, Pendleton grabbed Pesek's foot in a similar move and the two tough athletes struggled for the submission. It was Pesek who got it.

"In the match with Pendleton in Boston, Pesek's toehold tore the knee ligaments in Pendleton's knee and he had to quit," said Elund.

Pendleton limped severely to his corner for the brief rest period and was hardly able to walk to start the second period. Pesek forced another submission in short order. Both men were battered; besides Pendleton's leg, he injured his right arm. One of Pesek's thumbs was torn open and bleeding and his right arm was badly swollen.

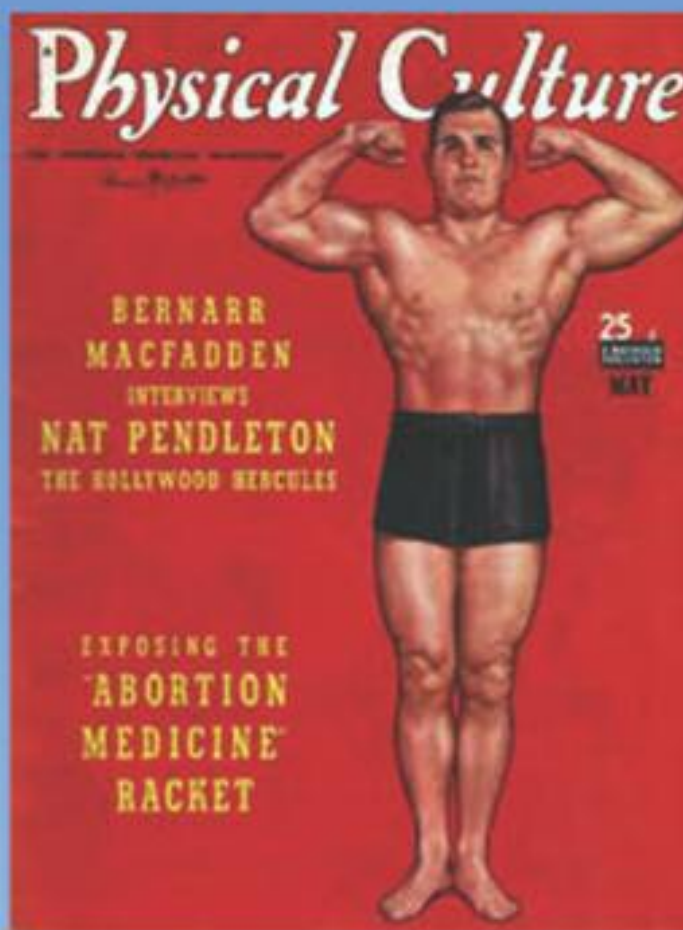
"I knew what I was up against, that I had a dangerous man," Pendleton told reporters afterwards. "However, I did not fear him. I guarded against his pet holds broke his wristlock several times, something few grapplers have been able to do. I forgot my foot and that cost me the match. I am satisfied that Pesek is not my master on the mat and will later on challenge him for another contest."

He and Pesek never met again in the ring. Nat wrestled pro another few years, still drawing big crowds, but he saw that the game was turning away from true athletic contests and becoming pre-arranged. Time limits were introduced and with that came fixed outcomes, complete with ridiculous moves that would never work in a real match. Pendleton tired of the business and moved to California. His rugged good looks and easy-going charm made him a natural for Hollywood.

Nat had flirted with acting as a youngster, because his uncle was a famous actor. He appeared in a movie in 1924, and even talked the producer into showing the film, "The Hoosier Schoolmaster", at Columbia University for the students.

He soon found a path into the film world. As a well-respected character actor, Nat appeared in nearly 100 films during his long career. Though highly intelligent – Pendleton spoke four languages and had majored in economics at Columbia – he usually played good-natured buffoons or hoodlums in films.

He had a key role in the very popular "Thin Man" series that starred the debonair William Powell and Myrna Loy, and also played the famous



strongman Sandow in "The Great Ziegfeld", which won the Academy Award as the best movie of 1936. Pendleton was at his humorous best in "Buck Privates", a film starring the comedy team of Bud Abbott and Lou Costello. Pendleton played a tough sergeant when Abbott and Costello joined the army during World War II.

Nat had top billing in a film called "Top Sergeant Mulligan" and even wrote a film called "Deception," in which he played a wrestler. He maintained a lifelong interest in the sport that made him famous, and in 1941 he sponsored the outstanding wrestler award at the AAU national tournament held at the West Side YMCA in New York.

Pendleton was married twice, the first time to a college sweetheart, a marriage that lasted just four years. He lived a bachelor's life for many years in Hollywood before marrying again in the 1940s. He had no children.

In retirement, Nat lived in Mission Bay, a suburb of San Diego, and attended some of the amateur tournaments in the area. "He used to come down to San Diego every year and watch the big tournament at the naval base," said Wes Brown, a top AAU official, in 1988. "He was a great guy and really loved wrestling."

By all accounts, Pendleton was a friendly, gregarious man who kept a strict diet and never smoked and seldom drank anything stronger than wine. He was an avid reader, wrote poetry, played the banjo and was an accomplished chess player. He loved to travel – he went to Mexico to work summers while still in college, and shortly after graduation worked in Spain and Portugal, and he attended the 1924 Olympics in Paris.

Nat Pendleton died unexpectedly in 1967 at age 72 from a heart attack. Though he has been gone for many years, he is still alive on the internet. There is a film on YouTube of him wrestling a boxer, shot sometime in the 1920s, as well as clips from his various movies. There are many items listed for sale under his name on eBay, including photos from many of his films, several trading cards, and even a poker chip with his name and photo on it.

Pendleton has a tremendous resume in wrestling – as a collegian, AAU champion, Olympian, professional athlete, and as a supporter of the amateur sport. As a native Iowan, he is a member of the Glen Brand Wrestling Hall of Fame of Iowa in Waterloo, Iowa, and the Iowa Wrestling Hall of Fame in Cresco, Iowa.

On February 18, 2006, Nat was inducted into the inaugural class of the Columbia Hall of Fame. "Although Columbia has boasted several standout wrestlers, no one ever captured the spotlight like Nathaniel Greene Pendleton," reads his induction statement. "Pendleton was a powerful, handsome athlete who instantly became one of the most recognized figures on campus."

And then came this stirring tribute: "Pendleton's heroics probably prompted Columbia to hire its first full-time wrestling coach, Gus Peterson, who would go on to coach more than 30 years and 268 dual meets." And Nat Pendleton still has a presence in the wrestling room at Columbia University.

"We have a really nice photo of him on the wall of our practice room," said Carl Fronhofer, head coach of the Lions, in the fall of 2104. "We have photos of our All-Americans and some of our top stars and teams through the years. Nat Pendleton is our only Olympic wrestler and we are very proud of him. We have people who come in the room and look at his photo and

say, "Who is that good looking guy?" I tell them that he was an Olympic medal winner who went on to become a famous movie actor."

Fronhofer, who was NCAA runner-up and EIWA champion his final season at the University of Pittsburgh, came to Columbia as an assistant coach in 2008 and was named head coach of the Lions on June 30, 2011.



Nat with Thelma Todd in a scene from one of his films

He brings a strong commitment to the sport with him, and appreciates the history at Columbia, which calls itself the oldest college program in the nation. The school hosted Yale in 1903 in what historians consider the first college dual wrestling meet ever held.

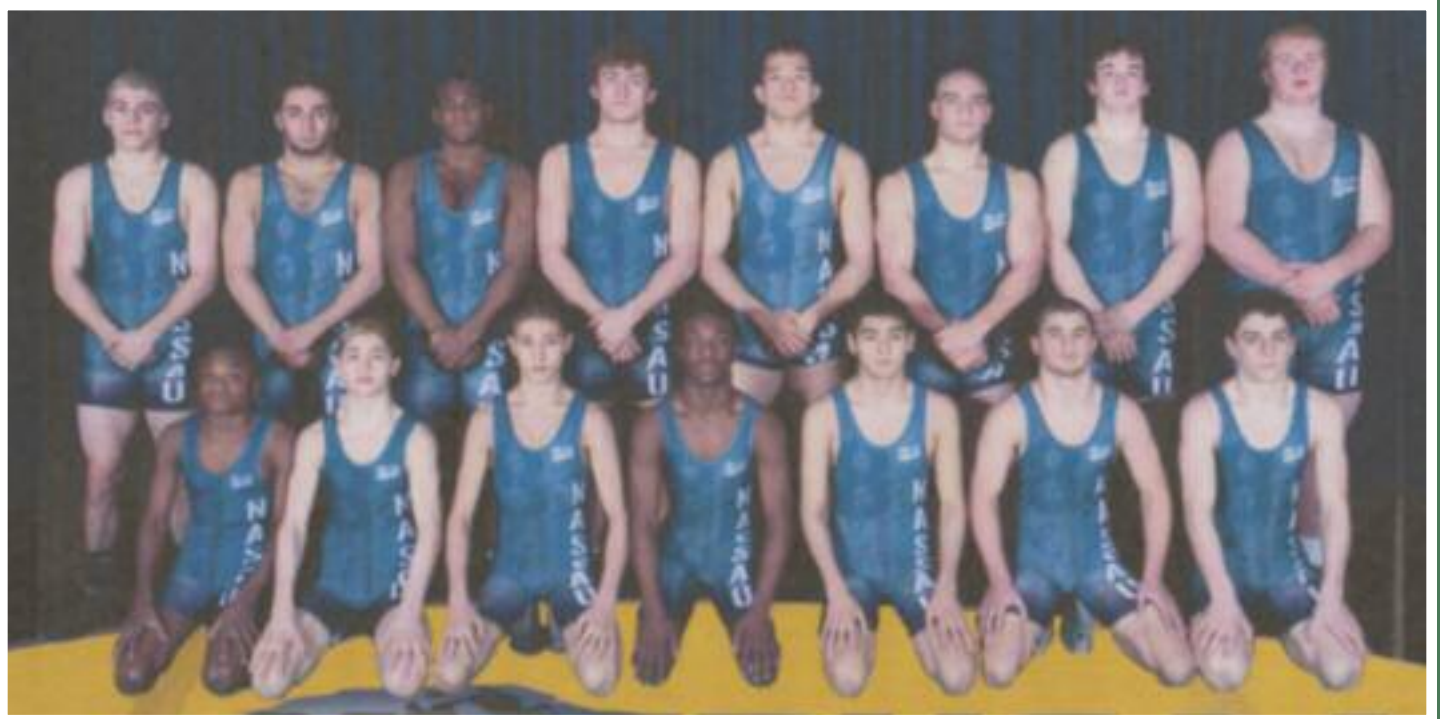
"I think it's really important for the guys on the team to know the history of the sport, and of its history here at Columbia," said Fronhofer. "The more they know about the past, the more connected they are to it. Nat Pendleton is someone we can point to with pride and tell his story. He can serve as a role model and inspiration to anyone who comes to Columbia. We should be very proud of him."

Pendleton is the subject of new book written by me. It is my 27th book (16th on wrestling) and I thoroughly enjoyed doing the research. One of the joys was finding Nat's niece, Joann Strom, who lived with him and his wife for brief periods while she was a teenager. Jim Rooney, a member of the NYAC, is the one who made the connection with Joann and led me to her. She provided me with heartwarming stories about Nat as a person, which are a key element of the book.

Andy Barth, who was team captain of the wrestling team at Columbia in 1983 and also wrestled for the NYC, wrote the foreword to the book. Here is part of what Andy wrote: "This is a great read that touches at the core of what the sport of wrestling can do for young men and women to strengthen and develop their character in the areas of determination, perseverance and a will to succeed. I am proud to have walked the same halls and shared in the same heritage as Nat Pendleton."

NOTE: Pendleton: The Amazing Story of Columbia's Wrestling Olympian and Star of Hollywood, is available from Culture House for \$14.95 plus \$5 shipping and handling. Author Mike Chapman will autograph any books if requested to do so. To order the book, send check for money order for \$19.95 to: Culture House, PO Box 293, Newton, Iowa 5020, or call 641-791-3072 for more information.

NASSAU COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2014 DIVISION 1 SECTION VIII & NYS CHAMPIONS & PLACEWINNERS



*Front Row (left to right) J. TEEMER, Long Beach; P. PAPPAS, Plainview; V. ARUJAU, Syosset
R. JACKSON, Westbury; R. STAMM, Levittown Division; J. REINA, Garden City
J. EINBINDER, Bethpage;*

*Back Row (left to right) M. LANGAN, Wantagh; L. HERNANDEZ, Mepham
J. WHITE, Jericho; S. SCHNEIDER, MacArthur; R. NG, Plainedge; B. TENNY, Farmingdale
J. O'HAGAN, Seaford*

NEW YORK STATE PLACEWINNERS

Champions:

J. TEEMER • V. ARAJAU • L. HERNANDEZ • S. SCHNEIDER • J. O'HAGAN

Second Place:

P. PAPPAS • K. QUINN, Wantagh; J. COOKSEY, Wantagh

Third Place:

R. NG

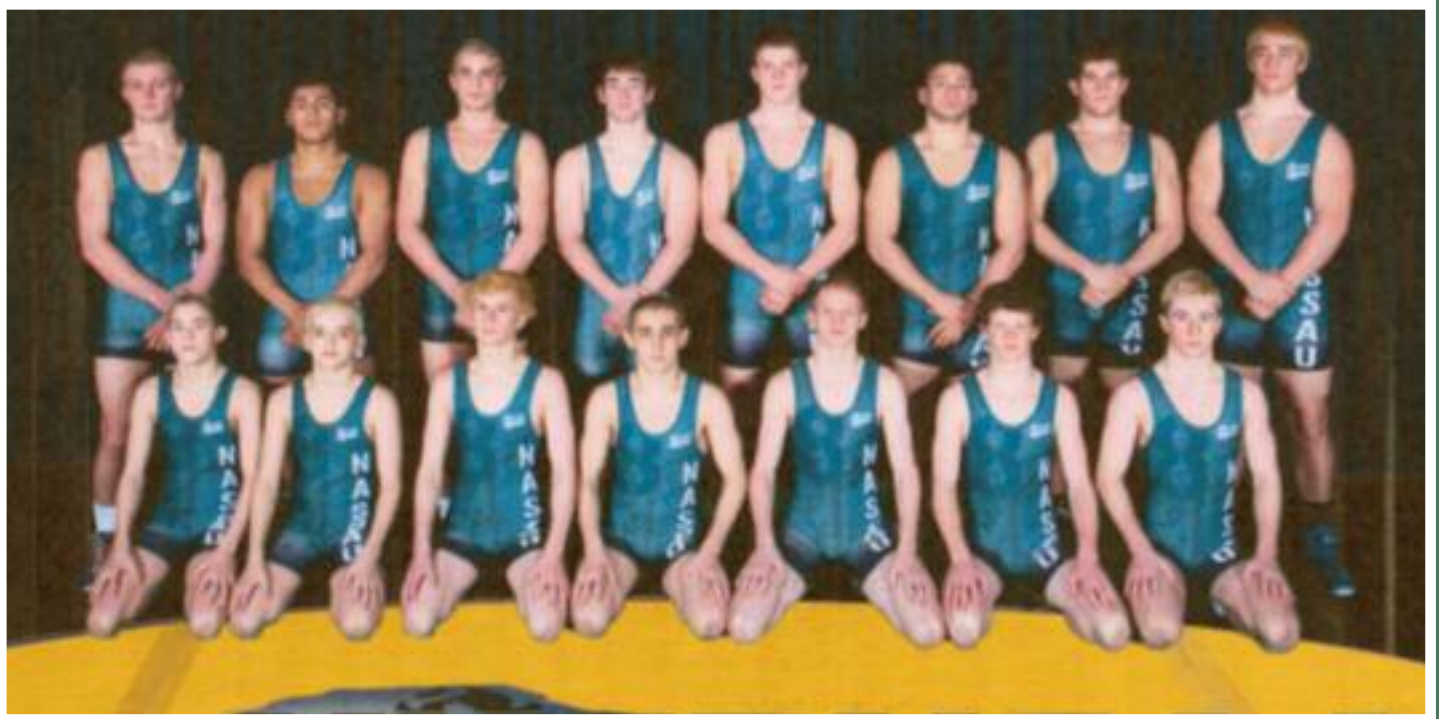
Fourth Place:

R. OLIVER, Plainedge

Sixth Place:

B. EINBENDER • J. DIAZ, Freeport • J. LAURETTI, Seaford • V. MANNA, Island Trees

NASSAU COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2014 DIVISION 2 SECTION VIII & NYS CHAMPIONS & PLACEWINNERS



*Front Row (left to right) J. GOMEZ, Locust Valley; J. DeRIDDER, Carle Place
H. DUSOLD, Locust Valley; N. CASELLA, Locust Valley • C. EXUM, Oyster Bay
P. McCORMACK, Mineola; S. WARD, Locust Valley*

*Back Row (left to right) M. DUSOLD, Locust Valley; E. RODRIGUEZ, Wheatley
J. FORICOLA, Locust Valley; J. TURONO, Clarke; Z. HOLOWCHAK, Locust Valley
E. HINCAPIE, Mineola; R. INCORVAIA, Cold Spring Harbor; S. MATTHAEI, Locust Valley*

NEW YORK STATE PLACEWINNERS

Champions:

H. DUSOLD

Second Place:

J. GOMEZ

Third Place:

S. WARD

Fifth Place:

N. CASSELLA

SUFFOLK COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2014 DIVISION 1 SECTION XI CHAMPIONS



*Front Row (left to right) A. SPARACIO, North Babylon; J. STALLONE, Sachem North
J. ARCERI, Huntington; N. PICININNI, Ward Melville; T. PASSARO, Eastport-South Manor
Middle Row(left to right) C. MAURIELLO, Hauppauge; J.LEACH, Eastport-South Manor
J. RESTREPO, Sachem East; D. FERRO, East Islip, S. RASHEED, Longwood
Top Row (left to right) K. GALLAGHER, Northport; M. TRACY, Sachem East;
N.WEBER, Kings Park; V. FEOLA, Walt Whitman; E. RUBIO, John Glenn*

SECTION XI "NEW YORK STATE TEAM CHAMPIONS" 2014

Individual Champions:

N. PICCININNI • T. PASSARO • C. MAURIELLO • S. RASHEED • M. TRACY

Second Place:

J. RESTREPO • V. FEOLA

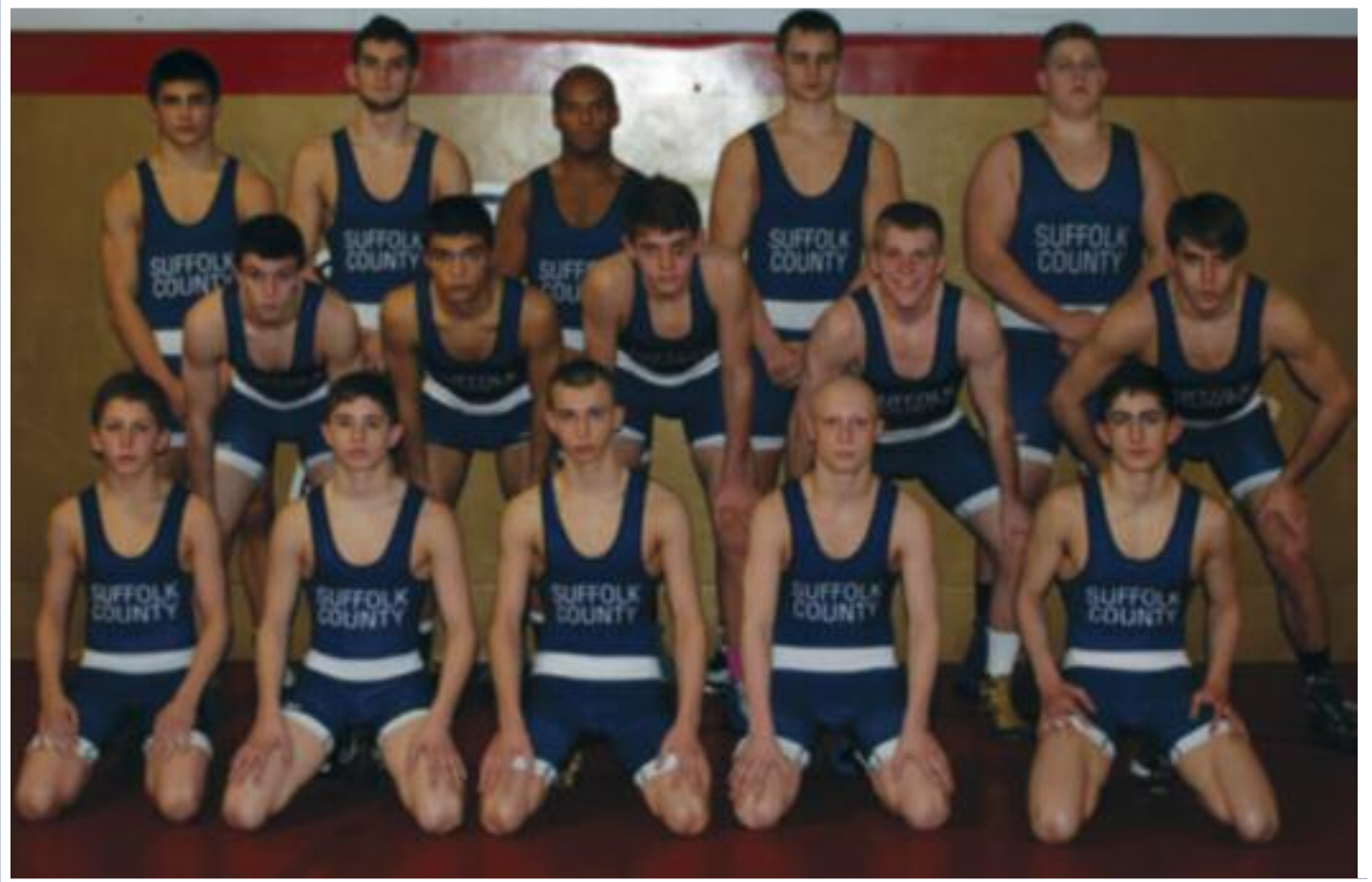
Fourth Place

A. SPARACIO

Fifth Place:

J. STALLONE • D. FERRO

SUFFOLK COUNTY COACHES ASSOCIATION SALUTES THE 2014 DIVISION 2 SECTION XI CHAMPIONS



*Front Row (left to right) J. BOKINA, Mattituck; M. DeVINCENZO, Port Jefferson
D. MAZZELLA, Babylon; BRET FROLE, Babylon; T. DeVINCENZO, Port Jefferson
Middle Row (left to right) B PELAN, Mattituck; B. BECKER, Mattituck; J. HOEG, Mattituck
P. CAVANAGH, Port Jefferson; R. WOODWARD, Port Jefferson
Top Row (left to right) C. ANGELSON, Mattituck; S. LOVERDE, Mattituck; A. GOODE, Mattituck
R. ROKOSZ, Southampton; K. FISKE, Port Jefferson*

NEW YORK STATE CHAMPIONS

Individual Champion:

M. DeVINCENZO

Fourth Place:

R. ROKOSZ • K. FISKE

Fifth Place:

T. DeVINCENZO

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At the Cedar Brook County Club, Old Brookville, NY



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Single — \$ 200

TEE-SIGN (Receive a gift) — \$ 100

GREEN SIGN (Receive a gift) — \$ 150

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BREAKFAST — \$ 500

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SAVE THE DATE

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The Cedar Brook Country Club



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NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

Downstate New York Inductees

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD INDUCTEES

1995

Harold Earl
Al Muller

1996

Al Bevilacqua
Joe Campo
Joe Russo

1997

Bob Bury
James Davey
Reggie Jones
"Jumper" Leggio

1998

Bill Linkner
Ted Petersen
Jerry Seckler

1999

Terry Haise
Ken Hunte
Ed Luksik

2000

Nick Gallo
Ed Rooney
John Schaefer

2001

Sam Boone
Cliff Clarke
Lonnie Kittle

2002

Guy Guccione
Walter Stewart
Joseph Valla
John Walter

2003

Irv Apgar
Ed Hubbard
Matt Sanzone

2004

Sonny Greenhalgh
Don Jackson
Ed Reinisch

2005

Jack Mahoney
Steve Shippos
"Brick: Stone

2006

Bob Busby
Paul Gillespie
Tony Mellino

2007

Ken Cellan
Robert "Doc" Fallot
Bob Goldberg
Gary Mims

2008

Gary Abbott
Neil Duncan
Bob Gerbino
George Munnich
Don Snyder
Bill Starke

2009

Paul Brodmerkel
Kevin Murphy
Richard Smith
Pete Venier

2010

Bob Armstrong
Roger Bogsted
Bill DeSario
Larry Cantor
Chris Edmond
John Hamilton

2011

Mike Davey
Mike Fitzgerald
Paul Kiebesz
Bill Knapp
Terry Phelan
Fred Recher

2012

Michael
DerGarabedian
Howie Greenblatt
Chris Messina
Joe Patrovich
Bill Santoro
Gary Ventimiglia

2013

Bill Brennen
Sal DiFazio
Dick Doherty
George Doherty
George Dlugolonski
Reggie Jones, Jr.
Norm Maise

2014

Hilary Becker
Cliff Forziat
Marcia Haise
Guy Leggio
Isaac Ramaswamy

2015

Paul Bass
Frank Carrozza
Robert Emmons
David Ironman
Jim Rooney
Ron Russo
Paul Schmidt
Jon Tush

DISTINGUISHED MEMBERS

Henry Wittenberg 1997
Dr. Vince Zuaro 1984

Frank "Sprig" Gardner 1986
William Farrell 1987

Lou Giani 2003

OUTSTANDING AMERICANS

Roone Arledge 1992
Steven Friedman 1993
David Pottruck 1994

Arthur C. Rutzen 1994
William Baldwin 2003
Pascal Perri 2006

Setrak Agonian 2007
Noel Thompson 2014
Steve Buscemi 2015

OUTSTANDING OFFICIALS

Pascal Perri 1995

Mark S. Piven 1997

MEDAL OF COURAGE RECIPIANTS

Rohan Murphy 2001

Charles Gadson 2005

Pat Augustine 2007

A Message To Our Members From

LEE ROY SMITH

Executive Director of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame

Welcome

I am excited to welcome you to our Downstate New York banquet and induction ceremony for 2014. This year marks our 21st class of inductees into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's State Chapter program.

The NWHOF Board of Governors are grateful to our State Chapter volunteer leaders in New York for reminding its wrestling community each year of how important it is to preserve the heritage of our sports' most prominent legacy makers. Another individual

I would also like to thank is our National State Chapter Director Mike Clair, who is retiring this fall and will be succeeded by Krista Graff. Mike has been instrumental in guiding and mentoring our State Chapter leaders across the country over the past two



decades in an effort to fulfill our chapter programs mission that has honored 2,230 members since its inception.

The individuals being honored here today are indeed members of a great mission and legacy in our sport and in your state. They are not only heroes to the people they have impacted through their work in the sport and beyond, but are inspirations to future generations. It is through their examples of dedication, service, and leadership that

builds and sustains our sport one individual, one program, and one community at a time. Yes, this program and our honorees from the state of New York are perpetuating a pay-it-forward culture in our sport and in your communities.

On behalf of the Board of Governors of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, I want to congratulate the honorees being inducted today. Their names will soon appear in the John Vaughan Hall of Honors at the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma. Hopefully you will visit the Hall of Fame soon with your family and friends. We would love to see you!

In the spirit of preserving, honoring and recognizing.

Very Sincerely,

Lee Roy Smith

Lee Roy Smith
Executive Director, NWHOF



A replica of the ancient Greek statue "The Wrestlers", resides in the lobby of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

STEVE BUSCEMI

NATIONAL WRESTLING HALL OF FAME *OUTSTANDING AMERICAN*



Steve, a versatile actor, played a ruthless gangster in "Reservoir Dogs", a kidnapper in "Fargo", and the Best Man in "The Wedding Singer". In addition, he has made many independent films and a number of blockbuster hits. In his biggest role to date, he plays a crooked and cruel politician in the current HBO smash television series, "Broadway Empire". He also was a director in the T.V. series- "The Soprano's". Today he is one of "filmlands" hottest properties.

His role in "Reservoir Dogs" raised his profile in the movie industry and he became a favorite performer of many directors. Steve has not always played the bad guy. He starred in the comedy film "Ghost World" as well as dozens of other films, including children's programs.

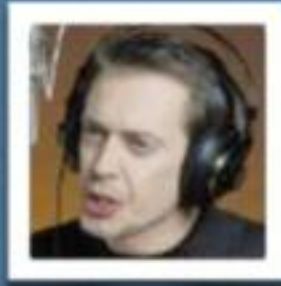
Steve began his wrestling career at Valley Stream Central High School where he was a starting varsity wrestler on an exceptionally good team coached by Hall of Famer, Harold Earl.

When he left high school, his first job was with the New York City Fire Department in Little Italy. Years later, he returned to the Big Apple to assist his brother firefighters after the 9/11 disaster at the World Trade Center.

At present, he, his wife, Jo Andres, and their son Lucian live in Brooklyn.

It is a great pleasure for the Down State Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame to present Steve Buscemi as our—

Outstanding American in 2015.



VALLEY STREAM CENTRAL WRESTLING TEAM



*CASTRONOVA, AIELLO, VELLA, LAPORTA, MARTORELLA, HAVENER,
RODRIGUEZ, BUSCEMI, J. SWEENEY, R.EARL, J.EARL, S. SWEENEY*

PAUL BASS

Never Say It Can't Be Done!



The year is 1978. Jimmy Carter is in the White House, muscle cars fill high school parking lots, and bell-bottoms reigned supreme. A bushy haired kid with beads of sweat dripping from his forehead is working out in the Westhampton Beach wrestling room. In walks his coach, Ed Broderick, who asks the young man what he was doing working out this late after practice? "I'm going to win a County Championship", Senior Paul Bass replies. A moment of dead silence soon follows... "You're going to do WHAT?" Paul Bass did in fact become the 155lb Suffolk County Champion that year, and his success was just a precursor for a lifetime of dedication to the sport.

Bass attended and wrestled at Division I Bloomsburg State College in Pennsylvania. "By my junior year, I started looking at wrestling a little differently as far as strategy and preparation... I was starting to think like a coach.

After graduating Bloomsburg in 1982, Paul returned to his old stomping grounds. For two years he taught and coached at William Floyd Middle School. In 1984, Bass reconnected with a familiar face, his high school coach, Ed Broderick. Ed wanted me to help bring the program back to the success levels of the 1960's and 1970's, so when a Social Studies position opened up, I was hired." Bass started as an assistant coach with Karl Lauver in 1984 and became head coach in 1987.

With participation levels down, Bass again heard those proverbial words, "You can't do it." "People said we couldn't build a successful wrestling program in the Hamptons, that we would never win." Bass knew it would not come easy, but he was up for the challenge. "I knew to do it, I had to have a core group of kids, I think my first year we started out with forty-one and ended up with nine, but those nine helped build a foundation." The turn-around came quickly as three years later his Hurricanes would post back-to-back titles. Yet again, Bass had another opportunity to do what he does best, prove people wrong. And proved them wrong he did.

Over the course of the last thirty-two years, he has built Westhampton Beach's Wrestling Program into one which consistently competes at a high level. Bass has accumulated 250 wins and could possibly, by the end of the 2015 season, be the 8th winningest wrestling coach in Suffolk County history. He's only had one losing season in the last nineteen years and no losing seasons in the last thirteen. He has received "Coach of the Year" honors 6 times in four different decades. His program has produced over 200 All-League wrestlers, 41 All-County, 4 County Champs, 8 State Qualifiers, and 5 All-State wrestlers. Not

bad for someone who was told he could never win.

But to talk with Bass, you get the feeling the wins are not the only focus of the program. "Our main objective is to help mold and make young men, something larger than just points on a scoreboard. Wrestling teaches you about life in so many ways; it teaches you dedication, builds confidence, teaches you how to compete and gives you the tools to deal with what life is really all about, dealing with adversity, which is something

Coach Bass knows a lot about, both on and off the mat. At 30, Bass was diagnosed with thyroid cancer and told the odds were against him. "I was very confused, and almost gave up, but my wife Kim reminded me that she did not marry a quitter and helped support me through adversity, like she has done for the last thirty years." Once again the words, "you can't do it"

drove him. "Anything Paul has ever done in his life has been because people have told him he couldn't do it", remarked Kim.

For the past 20 years, Coach Bass has served on the executive board of the Suffolk County Wrestling Coaches Association as the treasurer and currently the Vice-President. He also coached kid wrestling in Westhampton for more than 20 years. However more importantly for Bass, the last three decades have been spent molding young men, centered around the sport he has loved and dedicated himself. There really is nothing else I wanted or even knew how to do besides coach wrestling," Bass says, "To see the sport help kids who get into trouble at school, or home, turn them into fine young men, that's what it's all about...especially when everyone said it couldn't be done"....

Now where have we heard that before?

"Everything Paul has ever done in his life has been because people have told him he couldn't do it"

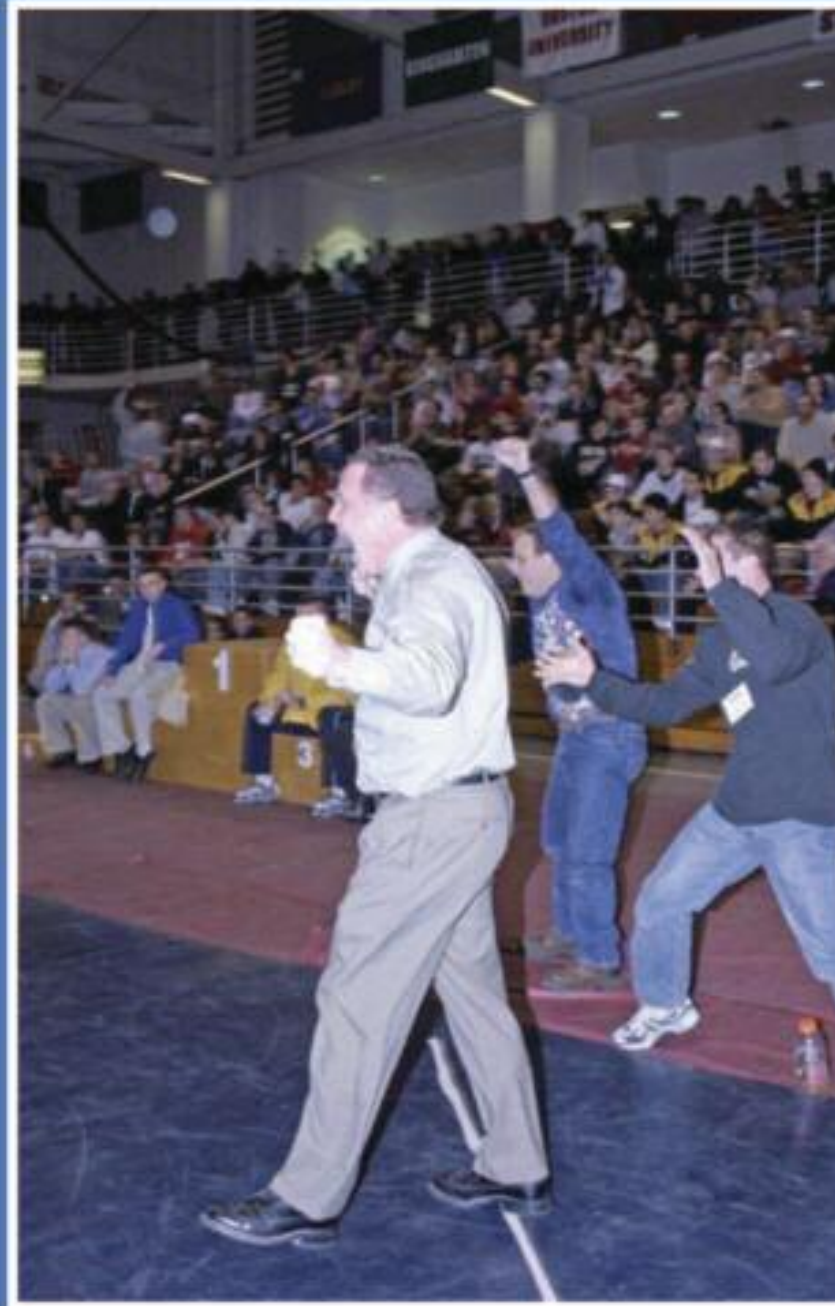
—Kim Bass

THE PAUL BASS FAMILY



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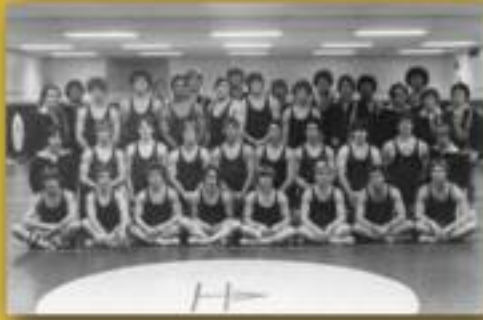
COACH PAUL BASS



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PAUL'S TEAMS

BLOOMSBURG TO WESTHAMPTON BEACH



Row 1: [Names] Row 2: [Names] Row 3: [Names] Row 4: [Names] Row 5: [Names] Row 6: [Names] Row 7: [Names] Row 8: [Names] Row 9: [Names] Row 10: [Names] Row 11: [Names] Row 12: [Names] Row 13: [Names] Row 14: [Names] Row 15: [Names] Row 16: [Names] Row 17: [Names] Row 18: [Names] Row 19: [Names] Row 20: [Names] Row 21: [Names] Row 22: [Names] Row 23: [Names] Row 24: [Names] Row 25: [Names] Row 26: [Names] Row 27: [Names] Row 28: [Names] Row 29: [Names] Row 30: [Names] Row 31: [Names] Row 32: [Names] Row 33: [Names] Row 34: [Names] Row 35: [Names] Row 36: [Names] Row 37: [Names] Row 38: [Names] Row 39: [Names] Row 40: [Names] Row 41: [Names] Row 42: [Names] Row 43: [Names] Row 44: [Names] Row 45: [Names] Row 46: [Names] Row 47: [Names] Row 48: [Names] Row 49: [Names] Row 50: [Names] Row 51: [Names] Row 52: [Names] Row 53: [Names] Row 54: [Names] Row 55: [Names] Row 56: [Names] Row 57: [Names] Row 58: [Names] Row 59: [Names] Row 60: [Names] Row 61: [Names] Row 62: [Names] Row 63: [Names] Row 64: [Names] Row 65: [Names] Row 66: [Names] Row 67: [Names] Row 68: [Names] Row 69: [Names] Row 70: [Names] Row 71: [Names] Row 72: [Names] Row 73: [Names] Row 74: [Names] Row 75: [Names] Row 76: [Names] Row 77: [Names] Row 78: [Names] Row 79: [Names] Row 80: [Names] Row 81: [Names] Row 82: [Names] Row 83: [Names] Row 84: [Names] Row 85: [Names] Row 86: [Names] Row 87: [Names] Row 88: [Names] Row 89: [Names] Row 90: [Names] Row 91: [Names] Row 92: [Names] Row 93: [Names] Row 94: [Names] Row 95: [Names] Row 96: [Names] Row 97: [Names] Row 98: [Names] Row 99: [Names] Row 100: [Names]



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FRANK CARROZZA

"The Father of Minisink Wrestling"



1967. He was the NJCAA Region XV Champion in both 1966 and 1967. In 1966 he was the West Point Plebe Tournament Champion, and in 1967 the M.I.T. Tournament Champion and Most Outstanding Wrestler.

Frank completed his undergraduate degree at West Chester State College (PA) where he studied to become a Physical Education teacher. While at West Chester State, Carrozza became the 1968 Middle Atlantic Conference Champion. He gained All-American status in the NCAA College Division National Tournament with a third place finish.

Frank went on to be a very successful wrestling coach and athletic director at Minisink Valley High School, transforming the school into the powerhouse that remains today. He coached varsity wrestling from 1969-1974. During that time Carrozza's teams compiled an 80-12-4 record. Minisink Valley generated three New York State place winners, four Section Nine Champions, and 24 OCIAA Champions. In 1972, Frank was the Orange County League Wrestling Chairperson and also served as Section Nine Wrestling co-chairperson. In addition he was wrestling coach for the Empire State Games for ten years.

When it comes to describing Carrozza's impact on the community, the school district of Minisink Valley Central School in Slate Hill NY, perhaps said it best when they mounted a plaque in the school in his honor that reads, "Frank Carrozza was head wrestling coach for many years, building a wrestling program here that is second to none." They coined him "The Father of Minisink Wrestling." In appreciation and to honor all of his accomplishments as an educator, coach and athletic director, the school community named their new athletic building the "Frank Carrozza Sports Complex."

If you ask Frank Carrozza what wrestling did for him, he'd tell you, "It got me into college, gave me the drive not to quit when things got tough, and provided me the opportunity to pass onto others what I have learned."

Carrozza has been involved with the sport in some manner since 7th grade. He wrestled varsity for Island Trees High School under Hall of Fame Coach Ted Petersen. He learned the sport and the characteristics required to be a champion from Petersen and his more seasoned teammates. The importance of service and integrity was something that Coach Petersen instilled in all of his wrestlers, and Carrozza was no exception.

Highlights of Frank's Island Trees wrestling years include a 1965 undefeated season, League Championship, and North Shore Champion honors.

After high school graduation, Frank Carrozza began his college education and continued his wrestling career at Orange County Community College where he was coached by Don Weber. Frank wrestled to an undefeated season at O.C.C.C. in

The Community of Minisink Valley named their new athletic building the "Frank Carrozza Sports Complex"

THE FRANK CARROZZA FAMILY



SHAWN, FRANK, MICHELLE, FRANK JR.

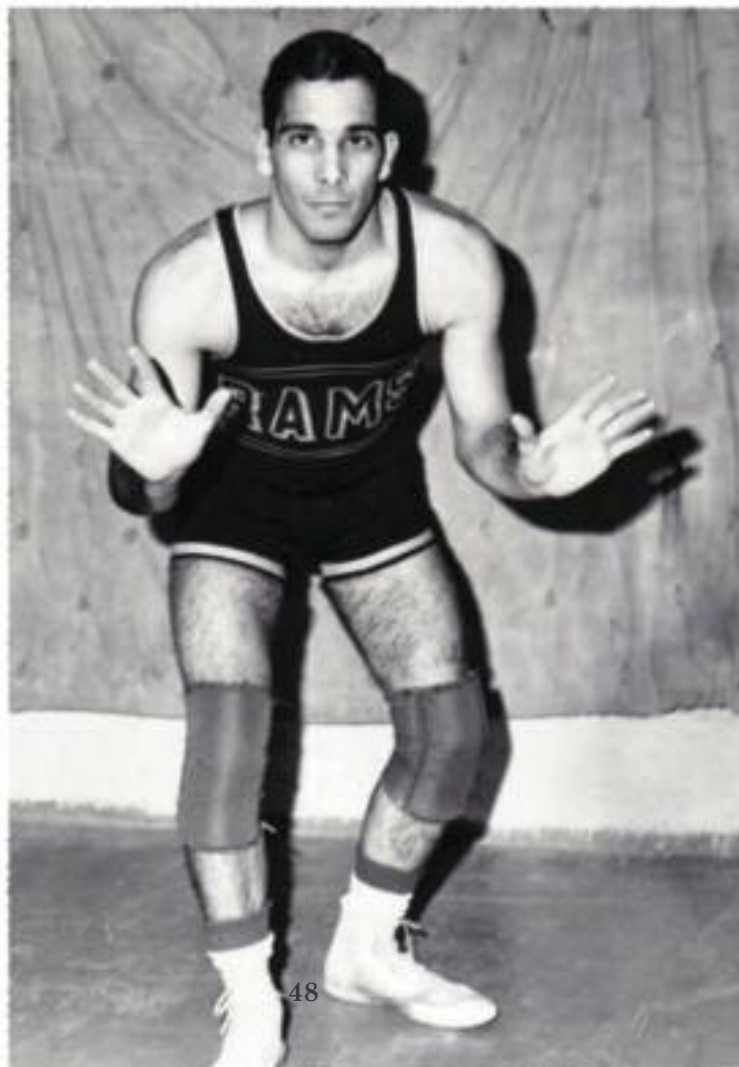
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CARROZZA THE COACH

SPONSORED BY: KEVIN GALLAGHER, SCOTT HENDERSHOT, DAVID TELGHEDER, THE HERKENHAM FAMILY
TIM BUCT, FRANK CARROZZA, KEN HAUCK, MICHAEL LARSON, MICHAEL GILLESPIE, LAWRENCE MICHELITCK,
BRIAN ROSENBERGER, THE MINISINK VALLEY FOOTBALL TEAM AND TRACY SUTERA (CUT ABOVE).

CARROZZA THE WRESTLER



FRANK
CARROZZA

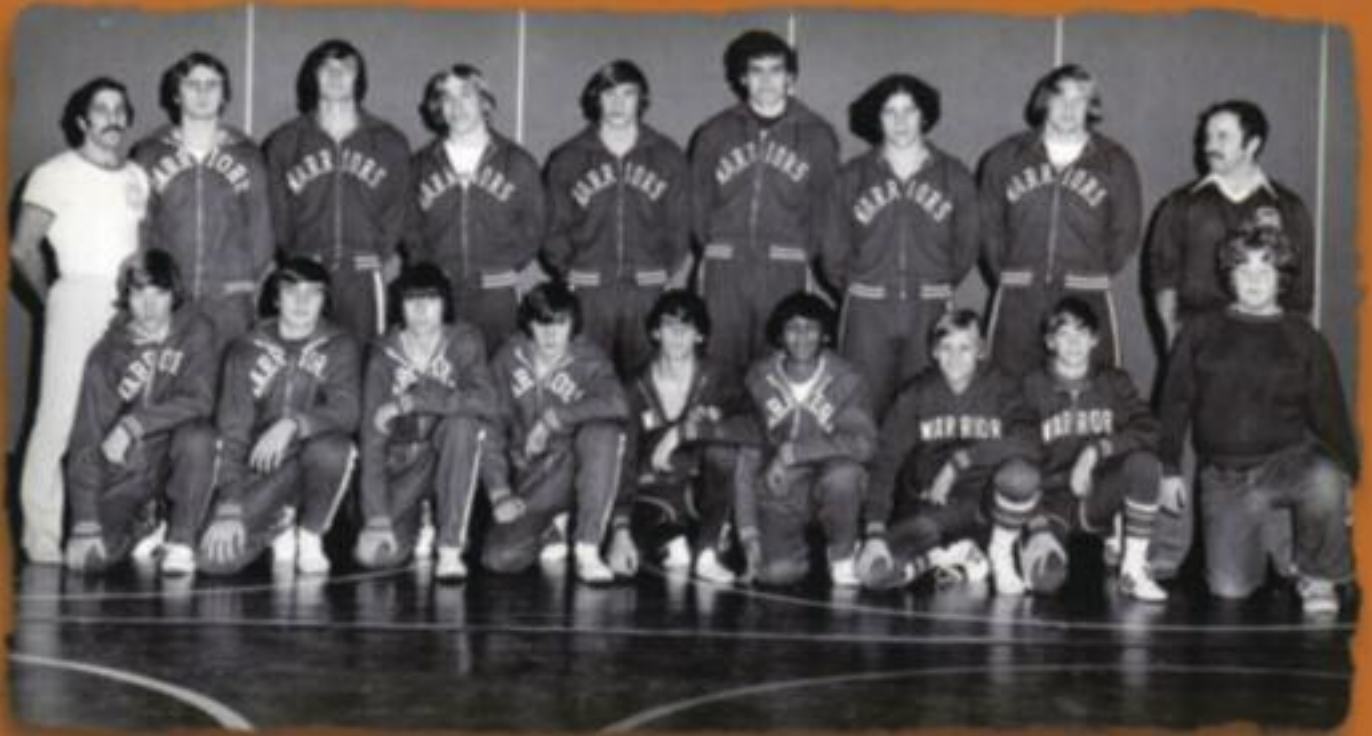
WRESTLED AT
ISLAND TREES
HIGH SCHOOL
AND AT
WEST CHESTER
STATE

A CHAMPION
IN EVERY
DIVISION
IN WHICH HE
COMPETED

WAS AN
ALL AMERICAN
IN
COLLEGE

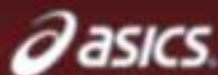
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COACH FRANK CARROZZA



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ROBERT EMMONS

A "Coaches" Coach



Robert Emmons's father was killed in a truck accident when he was just a year old. His brother Steve, who was eleven years older, helped guide Bob toward sports. Bob started wrestling in the 5th and 6th grades. In junior high he met his scholastic coach, Harold Earl, who became a Hall of Fame coach. As a 7th grader Bob attended a Long Island Wrestling Championship at the famed Mendham High School in Bellmore, NY. The gym floor was covered with small gym mats that were pushed together and then covered with a mat cover. Valley Stream Central High School, which was the district Bob would attend, had five Long Island Champions. At this point, he was sold on wrestling and wanted to be a Long Island champ!

Bob's junior high wrestling career was as impressive, he pinned every opponent but one! Bob had a stellar high school career at Valley Stream Central. He was a member of the first undefeated team in 32 years. He was All League four times, of which he was a two time league champion. He was four times All County, twice being a runner-up. In addition, he placed fourth twice in the Long Island Championships.

Bob Emmons first coaching job was as an assistant during his senior year in college at Shanley High School in Fargo, ND in 1965. Bob's first head coaching job was in Manville, NJ in 1966. Bob was there for one year and the team improved to 3-9. His next job was at Kings Park,

NY, high school in 1968. His first year there he assisted Hall of Fame coach John Smith. The next year Emmons was the head coach and the team went 9-3. An interesting side bar; during Bob's first year at Kings Park he recruited a guy named Jack Spates to the wrestling team while he was on cafeteria duty. Spates did well his first year placing 2nd in the league tournament. Unfortunately for Emmons, after his 10th grade year, the Spates family moved to Smithtown where he eventually won the NY State Wrestling Championship in 1970 at 107 lbs. Spates went on to be the outstanding head coach of Oklahoma University!

After Kings Park, Emmons became the assistant coach of East Hampton, New York High School. They won the league championship his first year there. The following year Bob was interim head coach. The team finished with a 4-3 record. They had one wrestler take 2nd in the Suffolk County championships.

Bob became assistant coach at Hampton Bays High School in NY in 1980, and would be Hall of Fame Coach Mike Fitzgerald's trusted assistant for another twenty years. Mike always said Bob was the "perfect" assistant coach. Together, they coached 9 league championship teams, 3 Suffolk County Class B championship teams, 30 Suffolk County place winners, 6 Suffolk County champions and 6 NY State place winners.

"Bob's patience and expertise with technique made him a great assistant coach."

—Paul Bass

Emmons last coaching destination brought him to Westhampton Beach High School in NY in 2002. He spent nine years assisting Paul Bass. Bass said Bob's "patience and expertise with technique" made him a great assistant coach. During Bob's tenure, the Westhampton Beach Hurricane's had a fine 100-34 dual meet record. They won the league championship twice. They had 4 Suffolk County champions, 24 Suffolk County place winners and 4 NY State place winners.

Robert Emmons dedicated his life to the sport of wrestling, involved as a wrestler or coach for over fifty years. His love and dedication to coaching helped to mold many wrestlers into champions. While assisting wrestlers perfect their technique, he always displayed the patience required to complete the task. Bill Parcells, the great New York Giants football coach, once answered a reporter's question by saying "Coaches coach." Robert Emmons was the epitome of this.

EV AND BOB EMMONS



*PAGE SPONSORED BY:
KAREN AND BRUCE DORAN
AND WILLIAM EMMONS*

Valley Stream Central Grapplers Defeat Ithaca

Central wins 21-19

Valley Stream finally cracked the Ithaca jinx before a record crowd in the Ithaca gymnasium. Outstanding teams in Valley Stream have met defeat in their previous meetings with the "Little Red". The day of reckoning came Saturday as Long Island met Ithaca H.S. before 1500 fans in the packed Ithaca gymnasium.

Ithaca saw its 11 match streak snapped as it lost for only the fourth time in 158 meets over a 15 year span. Valley Stream won its 11th match of the year to remain unbeaten. Excitement reigned throughout the 10 bout program. Each team won five matches, but Valley Stream out pinned Ithaca 3-2.

The outcome was clinched with a surprise takedown in the final 10 seconds of the next to last bout.

Ithaca wrestlers Mike Turco, Dale Betting, Bob Fransimone, Jim Drexler and Steve Shippos all proven veterans, won in decisive fashion.

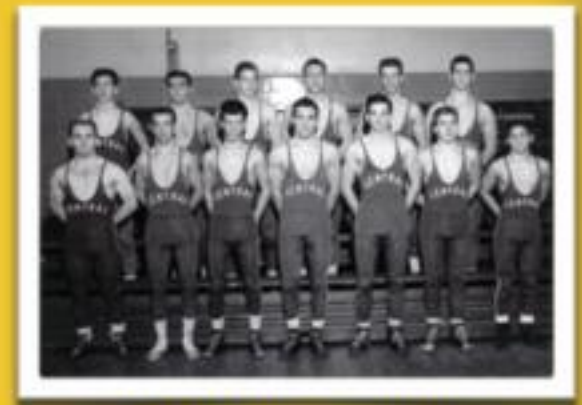
A tough Joe O'Donnell won by a pin for the first victory for Central. A rugged Bob Emmons used a "Valley Stream Dump" to put his opponent on his back and then secured a fall with a half nelson and crotch. Elliott Friedel followed with a giant win, scoring four points late in the bout at 147 pounds and securing a 6-5 victory. John Zabatta quickly followed that win by pinning his opponent.

That left Tom Salvador, who, in a hard-fought battle, took his opponent down with 10 seconds left in the final period providing the margin of victory for Valley Stream. Steve Shippos ended the meet with a pin at heavyweight but it was not enough to catch the undefeated "Streamers".

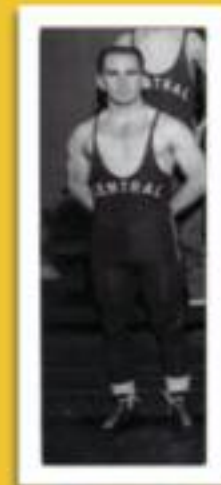
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HAROLD EARL'S WRESTLERS, ELLIOTT FRIEDEL, AND BOB EMMONS CONGRATULATE TOM SALVADOR FOR HIS VICTORY



VALLEY STREAM'S UNDEFEATED TEAM



BOB EMMONS



**SPONSORED BY:
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BOB EMMONS

Wrestler & Coach



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Mr. & Mrs. John Clark

DAVID G. IRONMAN

A Leading Advocate For NYC Wrestling

David G. Ironman is the director of wrestling for Monsignor Farrell High School in Staten Island, New York. He has been associated with the Farrell program for more than 30 years. As a coach and administrator, he has been involved with the world of amateur wrestling. He was introduced to the sport, in Brentwood, and then while living in North Babylon, Long Island.

As a young man, David knew little about wrestling except for the world of Bruno Sammartino and the other prominent professional wrestlers of the early 1960s. When Coach Ironman's family moved to Long Island, wrestling became the family sport. Having two older brothers Paul and Terry, Coach Ironman got to enjoy the rite of passage in wrestling as his older brothers would come home from practice and use their younger brother as the wrestling dummy, to practice the new moves they had learned that day. In order to compete with his brothers, Coach Ironman had to become a student of wrestling.

David wrestled in elementary school through high school with some success. While wrestling at North Babylon High School, he wrestled for Rick Lassen, the long-time coach and contributor to wrestling in New York. The success that he had in high school and his love for wrestling convinced him to continue wrestling in college.

David continued his wrestling career in the Sunshine State, at Broward College and later at Florida International University. While in college, he qualified twice for the JUCO Nationals before moving on to FIU. While at FIU, he was involved in a car accident that ended his competitive career.

David Ironman's love of wrestling and his desire to stay involved with amateur wrestling led him to his first coaching job as an assistant coach at Broward College. Unfortunately, with the advent of Title IX, all the colleges in Florida dropped their wrestling programs, including Broward.

After moving to Staten Island, New York, David was asked if he would come to Monsignor Farrell High School and help out with the wrestling team. More than 30 years later, Coach Ironman is still helping out at Monsignor Farrell High School.

During the early years at Farrell, Ironman became involved with Sonny Greenhalgh, Paul Kieblesz and others in the NYC wrestling community. While much of the focus in NYC was on the success of the NYAC's wrestling team, Coach Ironman focused on the kids and high school programs.

While he coached at Monsignor Farrell, he was invited to help solidify NYSUSA wrestling's structure. By now, Coach Ironman had become an attorney and was entrusted with incorporating NYSUSA wrestling and helping prepare all the appropriate rules and regulations needed for the organization. In addition, David began the New York City section for NYSUSA wrestling.



With the help of Sonny Greenhalgh, Paul Kieblesz, Umberto Fasolino, Larry Cantor, and others, Coach Ironman promoted wrestling in New York City at the middle school and high school levels by hosting tournaments, forming Empire State teams and coaching at the BIG APPLE Games. Wrestling began to grow in New York City.

One of the first tournaments that Coach Ironman founded was the Monsignor Farrell Invitational. 2015 will mark the 30th year anniversary of the Monsignor Farrell Tournament. During his tenure as tournament director, Coach Ironman invited wrestlers from New York City, New Jersey, Florida, Pennsylvania, and throughout New York State to participate in the tournament.

Coach Ironman has been coaching for more than thirty years. In addition to coaching at Monsignor Farrell, he also coached at Cardinal Gibbons High School in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. For a number of years, Coach Ironman would commute between New York and Fort Lauderdale.

David has been fortunate to be in the corner for Cardinal Gibbons first state champion as well as Monsignor Farrell's first NYSPHSAA finalist. While a desire to produce quality wrestlers has always been a motivational factor in his career, it has been a greater desire to help produce quality citizens through wrestling.

After a lifetime of being involved with wrestling as a competitor, coach, tournament director, and administrator, Coach Ironman will continue to contribute to the wrestling community as the Sectional Chairman for the Catholic League Section attempting to fill the unfillable shoes of Chaminade's George "Dugo" Dlugolonski.

David G. Ironman has been married for 33 years to Susan Crecca Ironman, and has two children, Lisa Ironman Krivis and A.J. Ironman.

In addition to coaching, David started the New York City section for NYSUSA Wrestling



DAVID IRONMAN FAMILY

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IT ALL STARTS WITH THE KID WRESTLING PROGRAM



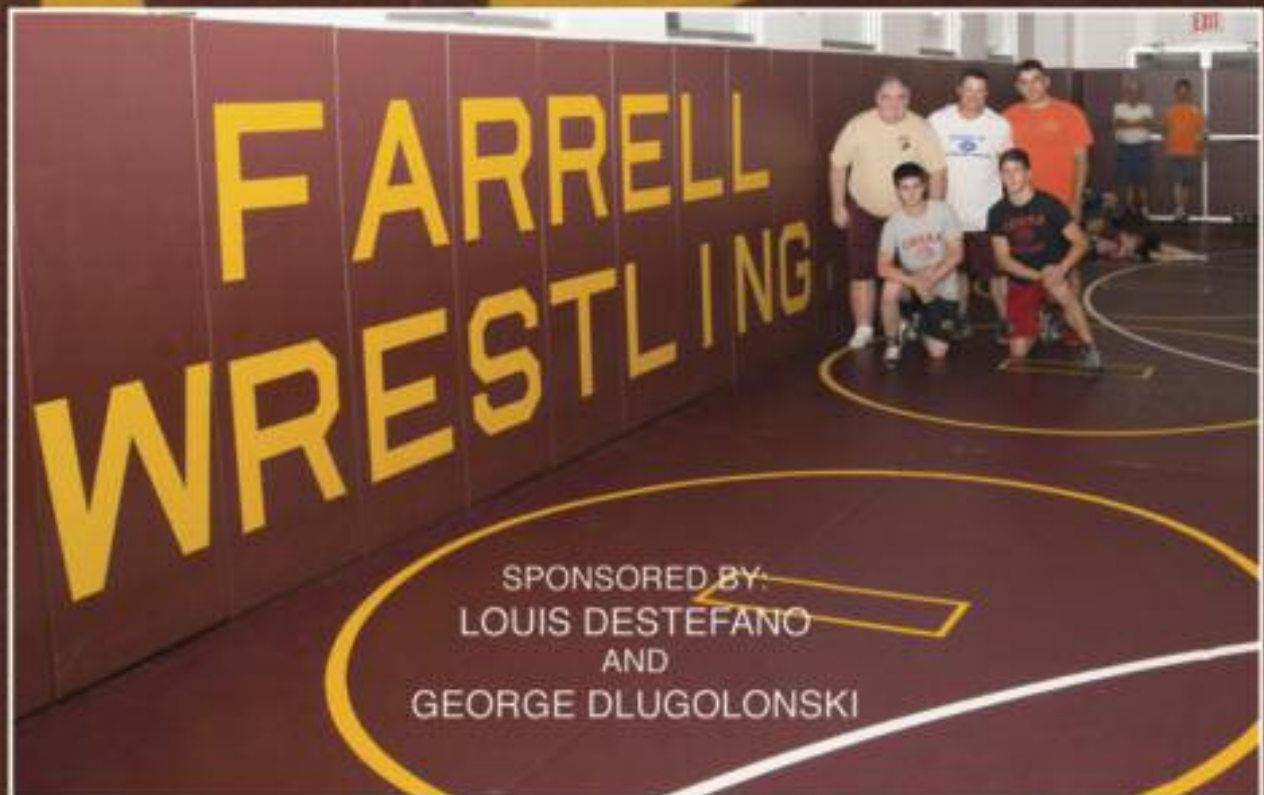
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BISHOP FARRELL WRESTLING AWARDS



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IRONMAN AT WORK IN THE BISHOP FARRELL WRESTLING ROOM



JIM ROONEY

52 Years Of Service To Long Island Wrestling



Jim Rooney's initiation into wrestling really began with his younger brother, Edward, who was a high school champion at Mepham High School and an EIWA champion at Syracuse University. Jim began officiating wrestling after his return from serving in the United States Army during the Korean conflict. Upon returning to his home area of Bellmore, he joined the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association and began one of the longest tenures as a wrestling official in the United States.

He has had the opportunity to officiate wrestling at every level with an emphasis at the junior and senior high schools on Long Island. During his tenure he has been an official in numerous county championships. In addition to working as a wrestling referee, he has also spent numerous hours working the scoring tables at tournaments and dual matches. Jim has been a timekeeper and scorer at every major tournament in the area. Jim Rooney is a past president of the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association, where he had the responsibility of working with NY State BOCES in the assignment of officiating matches and has always been willing to fill in when other officials were unable to make a dual match or tournament. Members of the Long Island Wrestling Officials Association have been very vocal in commending Jim for his volunteerism in all wrestling matters. In addition, he has spent a great deal of time assisting the Friends of Long Island Wrestling in their various activities.

Anyone who knows the "Roon", knows he is generous with his 52 years of experience in the ranks. Those morning phone calls, impromptu visits, or drives exploring Long Island are peppered with advice and stories from his long career in wrestling. His son, James F. Rooney Jr., is currently a varsity official moving up the ranks.

You can't have a 52 year career in wrestling without a supportive family. Jim is married to Cecilia and has six children, nine grandchildren, and four great grandchildren.

Jim Rooney has had one of the longest tenures as a wrestling official in the United States

Now that he is retired from officiating, he finally found time to attend the 2014 NCAA Wrestling Championships, and watched Penn State win its fourth title in a row, sixty years after he watched them win their first title in 1953.

Among his many duties included: Past President of the LIOA Chief Instructor for incoming officials Provided fledgling officials an opportunity to prepare for passing their officiating

test and becoming certified Jim also had the opportunity to officiate wrestling at the elementary school, high school and varsity levels. He is proud that he has worked with Hall of Fame officials such as Mark Piven, and many other great Long Island

wrestling officials. he has been consistently available as a volunteer as well as an official. Assisting the Friends of Long Island Wrestling in numerous activities, and in his over 50+ years, he has spend untold hours working at the scoring tables at dual meets and various tournaments. His experiences include refereeing individual bouts, serving as timekeeper and scorer in Nassau County champs and countless offseason wrestling tournaments. Jim has made it a policy to be available whenever needed and has been a loyal servant and proponent in the Long Island wrestling community.

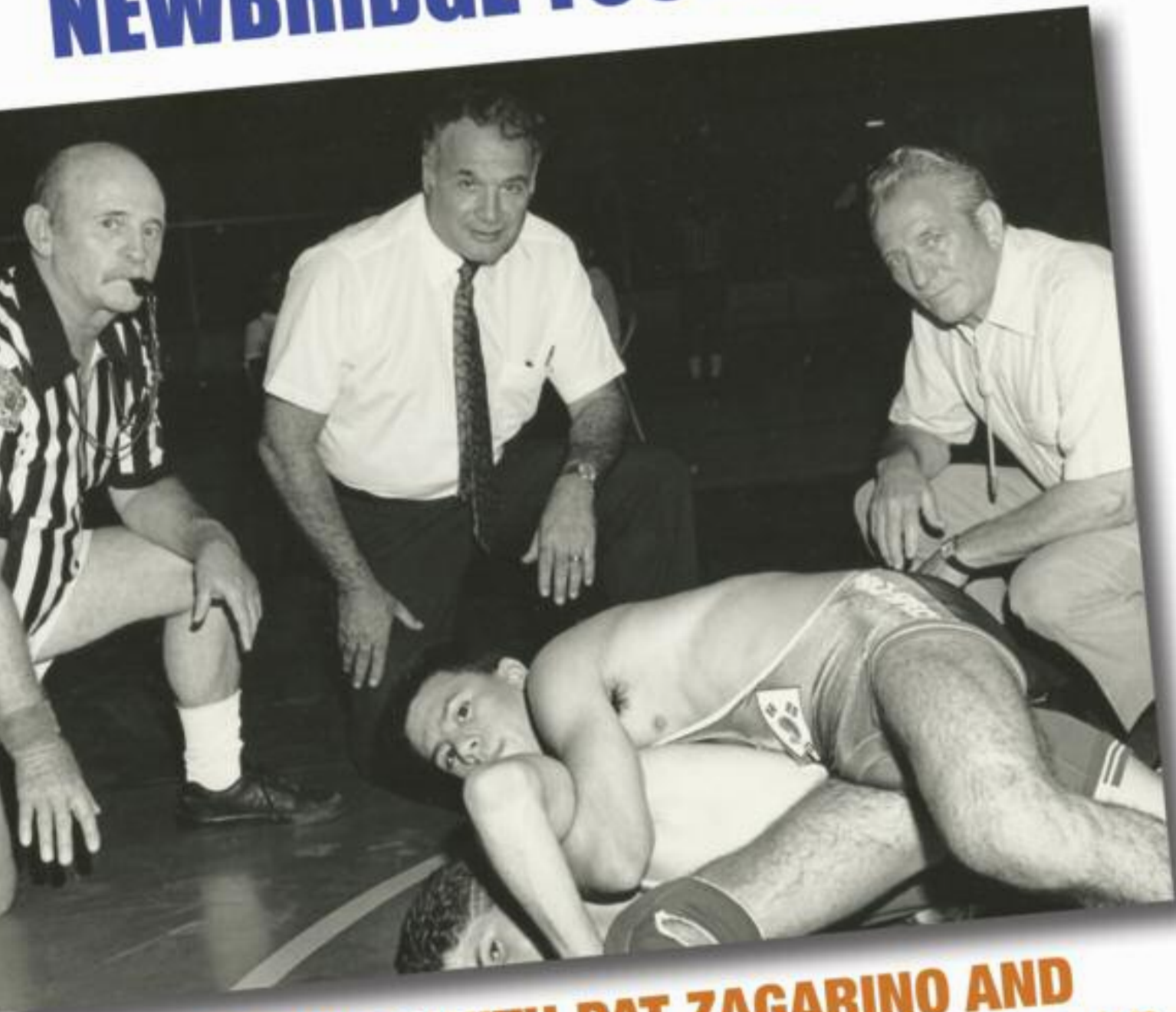
THE ROONEY FAMILY



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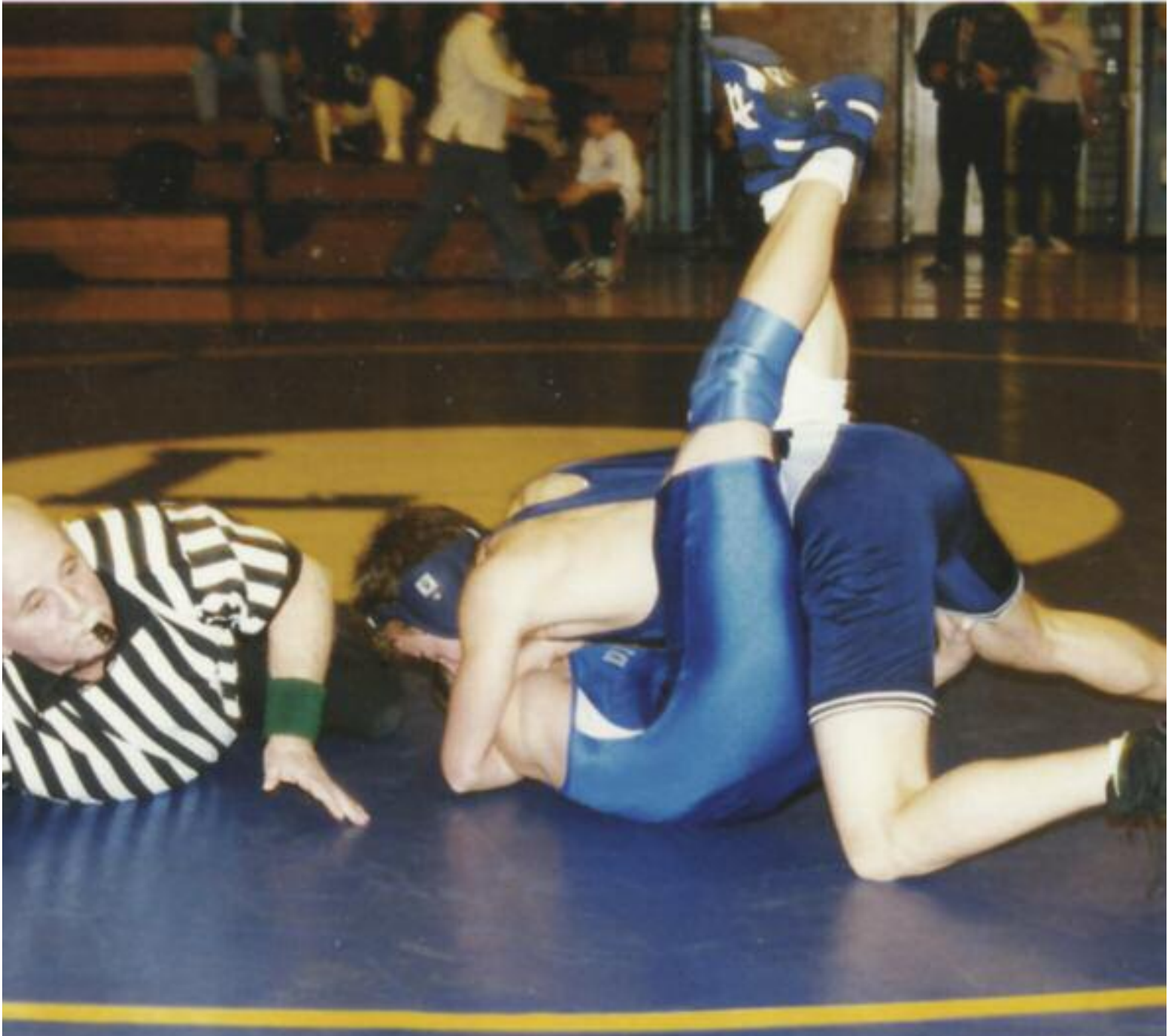


**JIM ROONEY WITH PAT ZAGARINO AND
BOXING OFFICIAL, ARTHUR MERCANTI, SR.**

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JOE ZABATTA, SAL CARILLO@SAL'S PLACE

JIM ROONEY

THE OFFICIAL



SPONSORED BY:
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1954 SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY FRESHMAN TEAM

**FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
DON CLARK, JAMES ROONEY, WIN RASHMELL,
JAAP BOOSMAN, KEN MERIVILL**

SPONSORED BY JAMES ROONEY II

RON RUSSO

Great High School & College Coach

Ron began his wrestling career at Seaford High School under the tutelage of “Hall of Fame” coach Bob Gerbino. a four year starter (1962-65) and team tri-captain in his senior year.

He would continue his career as a wrestler by attending Bloomsburg State College. Coached by Russ Houk who was the assistant coach and manager of the 1972-1976 Olympic teams. Ron was a three year starter for the “Huskies” and co-captain his senior year. He captured the 1968 and 1969 Pennsylvania State College Champion while also earning the Pennsylvania AAU crown. On the national level, he was NAIA national runner-up in 1968 and champion in 1969. Ron was also a two-time All-American Division 1, placing 6th and 4th respectively in the 1968 and 1969 NCAA championships. Ron also in 1968 qualified for the “Olympic Trials” finished 4th losing to the legendary Dan Gable.

Ron ended his wrestling career by representing the East squad in the “East-West All-America” meet at Penn State University. Ron’s victory over Lenny Groom (NCAA runner-up) helped seal the victory for the East. It was the first time the East had ever defeated the West. An interesting footnote, the official was none other than “Hall of Fame” official Pascal Perri. For his efforts on the mats, Ron earned the “Redman Trophy” for the top athlete at Bloomsburg State.

Ron received his college coaching start at Cortland State University, as an assistant coach under Vince Gonino. Their squad won the dual meet portion of SUNYAC Conference and runner-up in the tournament. Ron had the good fortune to coach life time achievement members Mike Davey and Lynbrook great Larry Glenz.

Ron’s Division I career started with a phone call from Jerry Seckler. Jerry offered Ron the assistant coaching position at Columbia University which would begin a twenty year relationship. This opportunity also enabled Ron to represent the New York Athletic Club on the mats. Bill Farrell, distinguished member of the “Hall of Fame,” and 1972 Olympic coach was the squads coach. Ron won two “Senior metropolitan” titles and “Eastern AAU” crown and a 4th place finish in the National AAU’s. The “club” would garner both the Eastern AAU and National AAU trophies.

Russo coached teams would win three straight “Ivy League” titles (1980-82). The squads would record a 134-91-2 overall record and a 60-35 record in the “Ancient Eight.” Ron produced 26 first team “All-Ivy” 26 EIWA place winners including Eastern champ Steve Hasenfus, and two Division I All-Americans Jerry Reid and Dave Galdi. Ron had the opportunity to coach Andy Barth (outstanding American member of the “Hall of Fame”) and TV news



anchor (Rhodes Scholar) George Stephanopoulos. For Ron’s efforts, he was named New York State “Coach of the Year” in 1981 and was admitted to New York Coaches “Hall of Fame” in 1993. One of Ron’s most cherished honors in 1985 was to be admitted to “Bloomsburg Athletic Hall of Fame.” Upon retirement from Columbia in 1991, he received from the “Varsity C” club the heralded “Columbia Lion” award.

During Coach Russo’s final two seasons at Columbia, Ron acted as assistant coach and interpreter for National Wrestling Coaches All-America team which participated in the international freestyle tournament the “Trofeo di Milone” (Italian for the Milone Trophy). The squad won the title in 1989 and runner-up in 1990. These squads would produce numerous world and Olympic metal performers such as world champions Zeke Jones, Tom Brands, Terry Brands, and Kurt Angle. Tom Brands and Kurt Angle would go on to win Olympic gold medals, Zeke Jones and Junior Sanders Olympic silvers and Terry Brands a bronze.

After leaving Columbia, Ron moved to Michigan where he now resides. Ron started what was to be a short stay to save a high school program which was about to drop wrestling. Twenty years later he is still coaching Kalamazoo Central High School. He has won over 200 matches, 5 conference titles, 4 district crowns and 4 “Greater Kalamazoo” County titles. Coach Russo is most proud that his teams achieved 6 times “All-State Academic” honors.

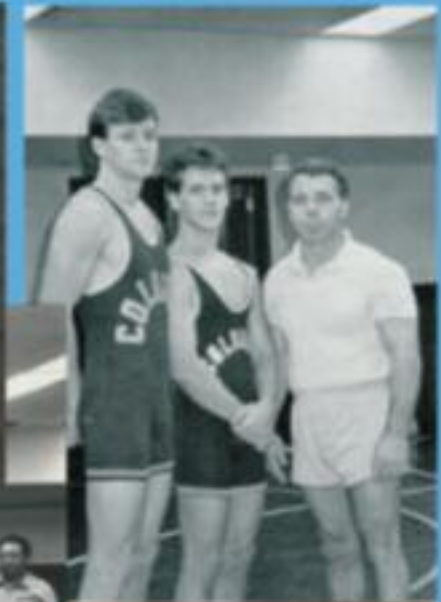
Upon retirement from Columbia in 1991, Ron Received the Heralded “Columbia Lion” Award



THE RON RUSSO FAMILY

SPONSORED BY : SAL LANUTO

THE RUSSO YEARS AT COLUMBIA COLLEGE



SPONSORED BY:
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY WRESTLING

Ron Russo



RON WAS A COLLEGE CHAMPION
AND ALL -AMERICAN WHILE
COMPETING AT BLOOMSBURG
COLLEGE

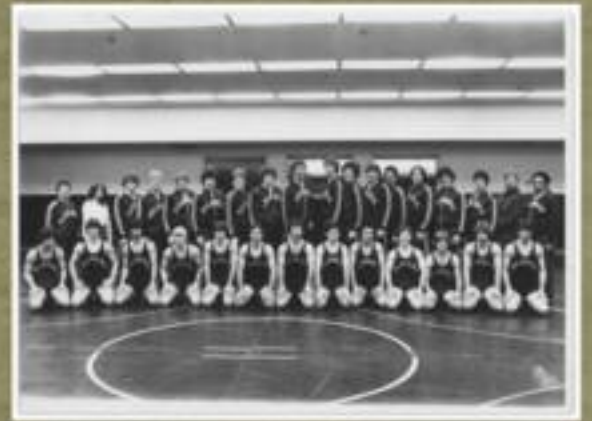


SPONSORED BY: DAVID HAMER



The Teams

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JAMES MULLEN, THOMAS WAGNER
KEVIN BURROWS, KEVIN McHUGH
SAL LANUTO



PAUL SCHMIDT

The Architect of Success at Nassau CC



fourth in the nation and finishing up with a 52-6 record. After Nassau, Coach Schmidt went to the University of Florida and placed second in the SEC Championships. With a 22-6 record, he earned a berth at the NCAA Division 1 National Tournament.

He then became the assistant wrestling coach at Nassau Community College in 1986 under NJCAA Hall of Fame Coach Chuck Henke. Ten years later, in 1996, he took the helm as head coach. For the last eighteen years, his team has won six NJCAA National Championships in 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013, and two National Dual Meet Championship in 2004 and 2005. Coach Schmidt was named NJCAA Man of the Year in 2004 and selected to coach at the NCAA Division 1 All Star Match in 2005. Coach Schmidt was the NJCAA Wrestling Coach of the Year in 2003, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2013 and was inducted into the NJCAA Hall of Fame in 2010. In 2013, for the second time in his career, Paul was recognized by the NYS College Coaches Association as NYS Coach of the Year.

For nearly three decades, Paul Schmidt has been coaching the Nassau Community College wrestling team. Before his coaching career began, he had a very successful wrestling career at the high school and college levels. Coach Schmidt started his wrestling career as a senior at Mephram High School before attending Nassau Community College and the University of Florida. During his senior year at Mephram High School, he was asked to wrestle by Hall of Fame Coach Ken Hunte. "Not too many people would say no to Coach Hunte," Coach Schmidt replied. That short conversation in the hallway of Mephram High School would change Coach Schmidt's life and make him a life-long member of the National Wrestling community. Even though he didn't place in his senior year at the county championships, he had a very successful season, beating many of the top wrestlers in his weight class. He continued his wrestling career at Nassau Community College, After his two years at Nassau, Paul finished up as an All American, placing

Over the last eighteen years, his team has won six NJCAA National Championships and two National Dual Meet Championships

Coach Schmidt has coached 11 NJCAA Individual National Champions and 103 NJCAA All Americans.

Coach Schmidt is a retired New York City Fire Officer, has a Bachelor's Degree in Recreation Administration from Empire State College and a Master's Degree in Liberal Studies from Stony Brook University. He currently is a full-time professor and the Coordinator of the Fire Science/ Emergency Management Degree program at Nassau Community College. Coach has been married for 37 years to his wife Mary. They have three children, Dara, Colleen, Paula, and four grandchildren.

THE PAUL SCHMIDT FAMILY



MARY, COLLEEN, SEAN, PAULA
LIAM, PAUL, KEIRA, JUSTIN, DANIELLE
DARA

COACH PAUL SCHMIDT AND FRIENDS



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JON TUSH

Jon Tush's New York Legacy



“New York City has always had wrestlers,” says Jon, who has wrestled and coached for almost 40 years. “But very few people ever really cared. Now they do and that is fantastic.

Jon’s journey started at a small private school on West 63rd Street in 1976, and it continues today. What Jon has done in the past 38 years is compete in hundreds of matches and mentor dozens of champions. Whether coaching or wrestling, Jon carries a passion to any task at hand. Now a vice president of a medical supplies company, Jon attributes success in almost every endeavor to wrestling. “If I hadn’t found a home within this sport, I never would have gone to college”.

The first time he walked into the wrestling room, he felt like he belonged. There, he found coaches who told him that what you get – in the classroom or on the mat – is the direct result of the work you put in. “This is where you even it out,” Joe Puggelli, then McBurney’s wrestling coach, would whisper to Jon during wrestling practice. “Jon expanded the horizon of what a wrestler in New York City was supposed to do to be successful”. “He had the courage to get his ass kicked and fail. And it didn’t discourage him. It actually encouraged him.”

Jon went to freestyle wrestling tournaments on Long Island. Jon’s effort translated into success. He won the New York State Private School Wrestling Tournament twice, finishing his high school

career with a record of 84-10 and about a dozen scholastic tournament championships. Jon attended East Stroudsburg University, where he started as a freshman and as a sophomore, placing in the Pennsylvania Conference Championships. With a change of academic direction, Jon transferred to Hunter College in New York City. A two-year co-captain, Jon posted a career record of 57-21-1. He was a Metropolitan Conference place winner, two-time NCAA East Regional place winner. In 1984, he participated in the NCAA Division III Wrestling Championships. Jon’s success won him a spot in the Hunter College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1997.

After graduation, Jon competed from 1986 to 1992, including internationally on the New York Athletic Club freestyle team. In 1988, he earned a fourth place finish at the NYAC Holiday Tournament.

During those years, Jon developed his passion for coaching young wrestlers. His first stop was his old high school. “Jon was working one-on-one with our wrestlers and taking some to the NYAC,” says Sean Somerville, a high school teammate who coached at McBurney with Jon for four years. Jon went on to help coach at Poly Prep, Manhattan College, the Millburn, N.J. Youth Team and Seton Hall Prep.

In this period, Jon also kept wrestling himself. He became a US Open Champion in the Veterans Division. Finally he won Bronze and Gold Medals at the Veterans World Championships in Ankara, Turkey and Tirana, Albania. In all, Jon has wrestled in matches in five different decades, starting in the 1970s and ending in the 2010s.

His status as a competitive wrestler gives Jon a unique style. “When I work with kids, I wrestle with them,” he says. “It gives me a sense of what they are trying to accomplish and how they are trying to accomplish it. That way I can help them.”

Then came “The Garage,” which brought Jon’s commitment to a new level. “We moved to this house in Maplewood in 2003,” says Santa Tush, Jon’s wife. “A couple of years after that, he asked me if he could turn our garage into a wrestling room. I said it’s not attached the house, it serves me no purpose. Yeah, go right ahead.” The Garage became a dojo for aspiring wrestlers, a refuge where they could drill their craft and analyze their mistakes. Today John is the New York Athletic Club Wrestling Club President.

**“If I hadn’t found a home
in this sport, I never would
have gone to college”.**

—Jon Tush



THE JON TUSH FAMILY

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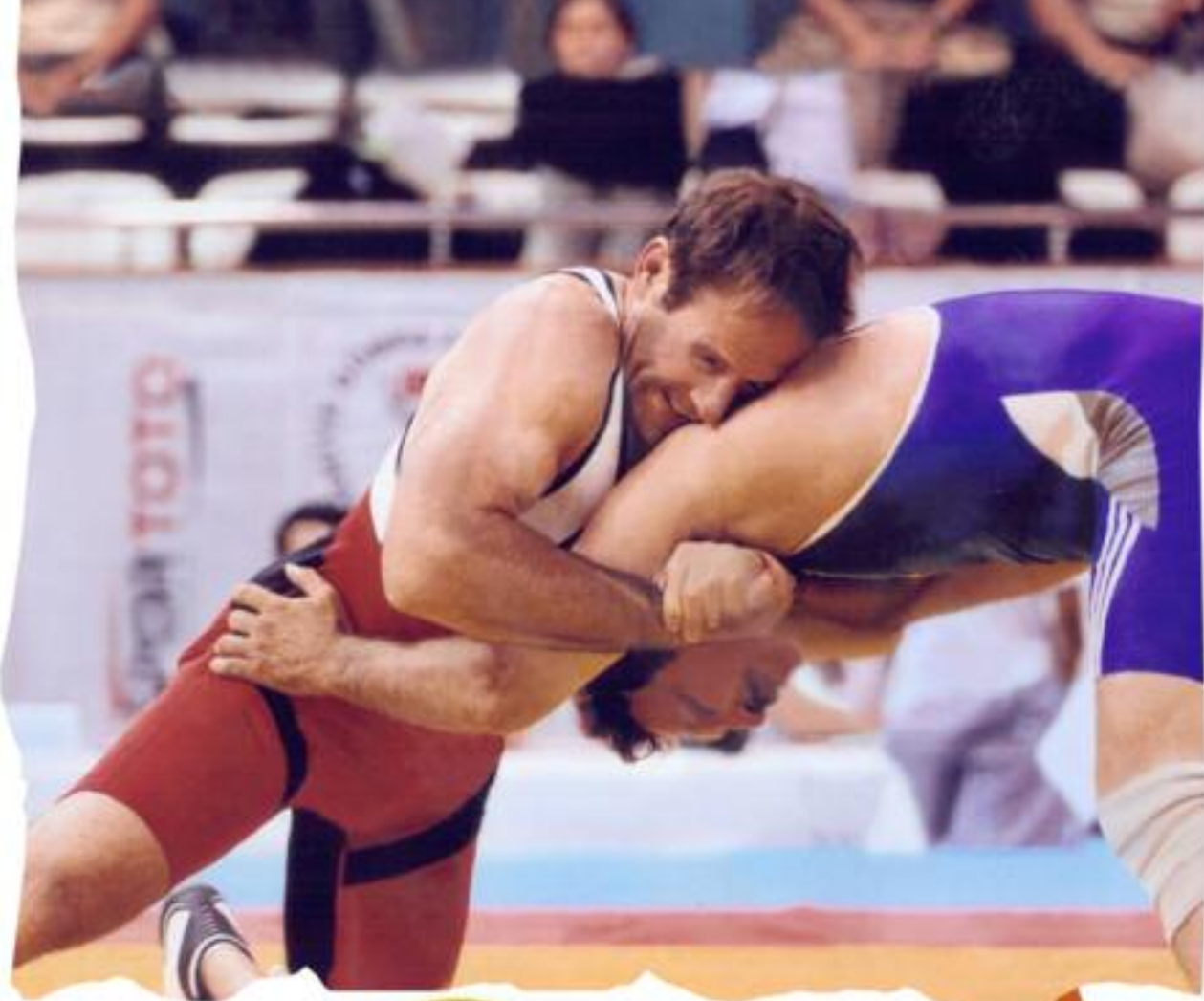
JON TUSH

JOHN IRVING

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JON TUSH THE WRESTLER



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WRESTLING WITH JON

“COACH JON”

JON TUSH HAS INTRODUCED
WRESTLING TO THE YOUNGSTERS
IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD
BY TURNING HIS GARAGE INTO
A WRESTLING ROOM
AND BECOMING
THEIR THEIR FIRST
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2015 AWARDS DINNER GUEST HOST



TOM RYAN
Head Wrestling Coach
Ohio State University

SUFFOLK COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS AT THE 2014 SECTION XI TOURNAMENT



*(left to right) Len Barone, Chad Smith, John Truscello, Jayson Sersondel
Sean Broking, Greg Mazzola*

SUFFOLK COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

President: LEN BARONE

Secretary/Treasurer: ROY SCOTT

Interpreter: JOHN TRUSCELLO

NASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS AT THE 2014 SECTION XI TOURNAMENT



*(Back row left to right) Bill Stark, Marcia Haise, Nick D'Anna, Gerry Armengau
Vin Paolano, Rich Smith, Bill Young*

*(Front row left to right) Pete Schmitt, John Hamilton, Tom Reynolds
Rich Petracca, Mike Nastri*

NASSAU COUNTY WRESTLING OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

President: BILL YOUNG

Vice President: Jim Hall • 2nd Vice President: & Rules Interpreter: ROB AQUILINA

Secretary & Treasurer: Gerry Armengau

O.C.C.: JOHN HAMILTON

The Kids Did It All Themselves

By Don Sayenga

We are truly fortunate to live in an informative age when digitization of older documents is making it easy for anyone with a PC and good browser to seek out verbatim records of the innovators who established collegiate style wrestling in the USA. The stories of our founders, formerly buried in the dark and dusty corners of sprawling libraries, are now readily available on-line. We can learn from the exceptional coverage in student newspapers such as The Yale Daily News (YDN) and The Columbia Daily Spectator (CDS) how the young men of these two universities got our sport up and running from scratch more than 100 years ago. Another student newspaper, The Daily Princetonian (DP) of Princeton University, illuminates how other groups of students at other schools augmented the launch at New York City and Philadelphia. The most impressive thing is: they did it on their own.

There was an administrative dispute at Columbia University in April 1903 which makes a good starting point for this story. A letter to the editor of The Columbia Daily Spectator dated May 1, 1903 publicized one side of an argument between Dr. Watson Savage (the gymnasium director) and Ernest Hjertberg (the track coach). Columbia's track and field team had been a dominant factor in the IC4A championships for many years. The event was considered to be the American national championship. It was usually a toss-up between Columbia and Harvard but Penn was putting the finishing touches on a new track at their stadium and they had a sprinter in school, John Taylor, who could beat anybody.

Track and Field enthusiasm was at an all-time high at Columbia. More than 100 students had tried out for the team in March. We'll never know exactly what was bugging Hjertberg but he refused to allow members of his team participate in the annual student strength tests conducted by Dr. Savage. His refusal was a setback for the strength test program. Savage had been cooperating with several other physical education enthusiasts compiling test results in the annual competition run by the Society of College Gymnasium Directors. Savage wrote an angry letter to CDS plus he marked a copy for the New York Times. He said: *"It is too early to know whether we would have won or not, but...it seems to me...a vital question as to whether the interests of the University or of an individual shall prevail..."*

Whatever the cause, the conflict between Coach Hjertberg and Dr. Savage flared at a crucial time in the history of American intercollegiate wrestling. Dr. Savage had developed an outstanding gym team at Columbia. He had supported the students who wanted to add wrestling as a standard gymnastics event. Unfortunately, an administrative decision had been made to combine the three physical education functions at Columbia, Barnard, and the Teachers College into a single department with Dr. Francis Wood of the Teachers College in charge. Dr. Savage, who was operating two independent gyms on the side, and was

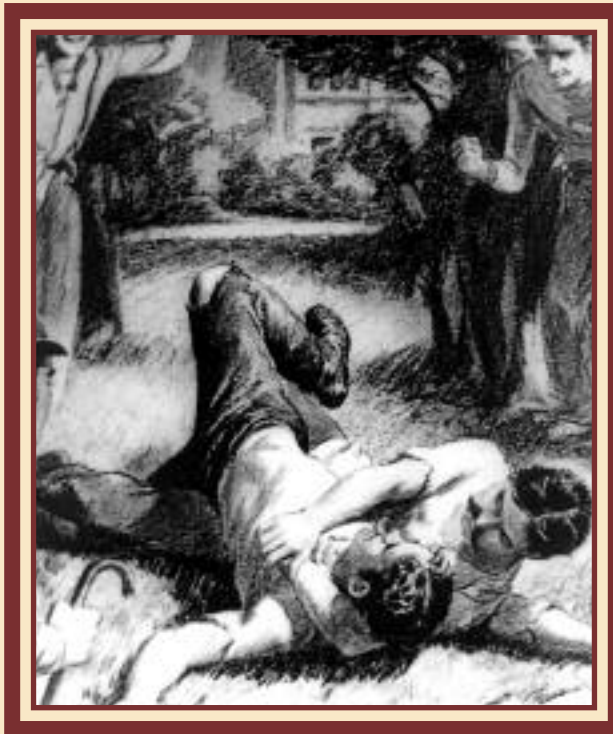
President of the Society of College Gymnasium Directors, took his talents elsewhere. The situation got even more messy when Dr. Wood became ill and had to be replaced by Dr. George Meylan.

During the last week of December 1904, the Society of College Gymnasium Directors held their annual meeting at the New York Athletic Club. During the meeting, Meylan was elected President of the Society for the coming year. Two of the academic papers presented at the meeting were delivered by Dr. William Anderson of Yale University and Dr. Tait McKenzie, a Canadian recently hired by the University of Pennsylvania. Anderson was the man who had been cooperating with Savage by sponsoring the student wrestlers seeking to form a team at Yale. Dr. McKenzie (a former McGill University athlete) was using his new position as Director of Physical Education to formulate, test and implement some of his advanced theories on health and athletics at Penn.

The NYAC Journal for January 1905 publicized Dr. McKenzie's new academic policy for students under the age of 21 who would be required to take an obligatory course in Physical Education at the University of Pennsylvania. Penn had just opened their new gym in Weightman Hall adjacent to the football stadium at Philadelphia. At the time, the Quakers' unbeaten football team claimed to be national champions. Although he was not opposed to American football, McKenzie believed athletic activity was best suited to sports requiring skill, coordination, and practice in addition to strength and stamina. His close personal friend, James Naismith, had invented Basketball as a way to reduce the brute force of the popular American grid game.

After gaining his medical degree, McKenzie conceived a plan whereby all college students could be divided into

three groups which he called: athlete, bookworm, and sedentary. His aim was to devise specific sports and exercises that were most appropriate for each of the groups. Although he did not have much wrestling in his background, it is easy to guess how the notion of a non-violent amateur sport where the students were divided into weight classes would have appealed to him. Furthermore, in the Spring of 1905 he was seeking ways to show off the new gym. Also, Penn had a new gym instructor on the payroll named Leonard Mason who was interested in wrestling.



Dean Alexander Pupin of Columbia University in the late 1800's, used to challenge entering freshmen to beat him at wrestling. Columbia went on to field one of the first collegiate wrestling programs in the country.

four classes; lightweight, middleweight, welterweight, and heavyweight.”

The NYAC journal was copying an earlier announcement from CDS December 8, 1904 naming three students: Phelan Beale, Frederick Echeverria and Arnold Lichtig as the prime movers. The idea of forming an intercollegiate wrestling team had been floating around Morningside Heights for about a year following the departure of Dr. Savage. At a meeting January 11, Beale, who was in his final year of law school, was chosen as president of the Columbia wrestling club. The club members began reaching out to some of their friends who were attending

Len Mason had been involved with phys ed programs during his prior employment at a prep school in Lawrenceville NJ 1901-03. Several sources give him credit for instigating what happened next. A description in the NYAC January journal announced there was a dawn on a new horizon: “COLLEGE WRESTLERS TO FORM LEAGUE. Columbia athletes have organized a wrestling team which will compete in an association to be formed with Yale, Pennsylvania, Cornell, and Princeton as members... As soon as a team can be formed a match with Yale will be held in

other colleges. In 1905, telegrams, postal letters, and student newspapers were the only means of daily communication between colleges. Long distance dial phones, radio, and television were still in the future.

At New Haven CT the Yale wrestling team concept was more completely developed. Under the leadership of Dr. Anderson, several annual intramural wrestling championships had become major events on the Yale campus. A student wrestling association had been formed with initial focus on the gymnastic connections. In January 1904 there had been talk of starting intercollegiate wrestling duals with

Harvard and Princeton but nothing came of it. An announcement in YDN said "a major reorganization of the association was held October 14, 1904 "to form a permanent organization". At that meeting the possibility of a dual meet with Columbia was discussed, and "Mr. O'Connell, the new instructor" was introduced. A follow-up article said

twenty-five students had attended the meeting, and "contests will be held during the year and it is hoped that some team matches with other colleges can be arranged".

The student leader at Yale was a senior from New York City, Harold Milbank, who had been victorious in both the 1903 duals with Columbia. He was elected president of their association. Another senior, Harold Sooeysmith, was named team manager. The instructor, Eddie O'Connell, was a local New Haven athlete who competed often in pro wrestling matches. He proved to be an excellent teacher for the grapplers. Beginning in October, wrestling practice and instructions took place daily in the Yale gym. On November 9 the wrestling association participated in a gym exhibition where catch-as-catch-can

style was demonstrated along with gymnastics, boxing, fencing, tumbling, and jiu-jitsu. Three weeks later, YDN reported: "A course in wrestling consisting of 5 lessons a week is now being given at the gymnasium... the price of which is \$10...the lessons are given in the afternoon between 3 and 6 o'clock".

Eight weeks afterward YDN announced: "Plans are being perfected by the colleges for an Intercollegiate Wrestling Association. J.L. Mason of the University of Pennsylvania is engineering the move, and has sent out invitations to Yale, Harvard, and Princeton to attend the wrestling tournament at



The Yale wrestling team, 1906. Louis Dole is back row, left. George Dole is front row, center. Louis A. Dole and George S. Dole, twins born January 30, 1885, were notable wrestlers at Yale. George Dole would enter the Olympics in London and take home the gold medal in his weight class in wrestling.

Philadelphia in the early part of March, at which meet plans will be formulated for such an association. It is very probable that all three colleges will accept the invitation." When the new Columbia club met in mid-February, CDS added: "Several intercollegiate dates were tentatively arranged at yesterday's meeting... The first match with Yale will come off in the gym, March 10. The return match will be wrestled the following week at New Haven. The

match with Pennsylvania will be held in Philadelphia during the last week in March..."

In March 1905 Yale won both the home-and-home duals vs. Columbia but the Pennsylvania dual meet never materialized. The students at Columbia hired an instructor named George Fisher who came to the gym periodically. Team leader Phelan Beale suffered a split eyebrow at practice which kept him out of action for several weeks. Fisher crushed a cartilage in his ear and had to be replaced by another instructor named Bailey. During these Columbia practice sessions it soon became obvious one of the juniors, a middleweight named Joseph Howell, had more skill than anyone else in the room. He won in

both duals against the Yale wrestlers.

The most promising new activity at Columbia was the opening of a dialog with grappling enthusiasts at Princeton. The result of this stimulus by the Columbia students was reported in the Daily Princetonian on March 1: “*At a meeting held last night, preliminary to the formation tonight of a wrestling club in the University, plans were made to take part in the Intercollegiate wrestling matches to be held in the gymnasium of the University of Pennsylvania the latter part of March...In the tournament which is to be held, cups will be awarded to those winning first or second places, and a trophy will be given to the college winning the most bouts. Before actual practice for the tournament can be begun it will be necessary to establish a permanent wrestling organization in the University.*”

At the Princeton meeting, a club was formed with a senior **Albert Gaines**, as President, **Frederick LaForge**, as VP, and a junior named **Alexander Scott** as Team Manager. On March 13 the university Athletic Executive Committee formally recognized the new wrestling organization. At the time, the Amateur Athletic Union was conducting national wrestling championships in six weight-limit classifications, plus an unlimited class for anyone over 158 pounds. During various exchanges in March, DP reported some apparent agreements between the schools about weight classes: “Princeton will be represented by a team of four men, one in each of the weights, which consist of a lightweight class for those under 135 pounds; a middleweight class for those from 135 to 155 pounds; a middle-heavy-weight class for those from 155 to 175 pounds; and a heavyweight class for all men who weigh over 175 pounds.”

In mid-March DP printed the constitution of the wrestling club, adding that “*Manager Scott has arranged meets with Yale...and has also received challenges from Pennsylvania... and Columbia*”. Only one of the proposed duals actually materialized (vs. Yale on April 1) but the DP account gives a good picture of travel conditions then faced in the metro area. The Princeton team boarded a train at 9:00 a.m., arrived at New Haven six hours later, wrestled at 8:00 pm, slept overnight in Connecticut, and returned to their campus Sunday morning. In the initial dual with Princeton, Yale won four of five weights. Only the Tigers’ middleweight Jack Dickson was victorious. A few days later, DP editors were optimistic: “...*The de-*

feat... by Yale on Saturday night, while disappointing, must not cause discouragement. At first sight the loss of four out of five matches seems to indicate a very poor showing but the fact that in all the matches, except one, three bouts were necessary proves that they were well contested...” To become more properly trained, the Princeton students hired George Bothner from the New York AC to instruct them. The few days of instruction they received from Bothner were a big help. The Tiger team began to feel confident they had moved ahead of Columbia in stature. As of tournament day, Friday April 6, when the Princeton mat team got on a train for Philadelphia just before 3:00 in the afternoon of the tournament, they were highly motivated to give the Yalies a good fight for the honors.

The Yale team, however, had accrued more experience than the other schools. Their line-up was strengthened by Roswell Tripp at heavyweight. Tripp was an outstanding guard on the football team. In the lighter weights they had the Dole twins from Bath, Maine plus Alfred Gilbert, an all-around athlete who had transferred to Yale from Pacific University in Oregon. If **Amateur Wrestling News** had existed at the time, Ron Good would have predicted Yale would win at least four of the seven weights. As it turned out, the entire Yale team went into the finals on April 6. Columbia’s main strength rested with almost entirely with Howell at middleweight, but the Lions managed to put four men into the finals compared to only three from Princeton.

In the gym at Penn, Len Mason and his student assistants used their best judgment when setting up the nation’s first college wrestling tournament. They placed two mats side-by-side on the gym floor allowing two contests to be underway at the same time, but their announced starting time at 8 p.m. revealed a serious miscalculation. Their hope was to identify the best wrestler in each of seven weight classes, but no system for team scoring had been devised. They didn’t have a clue how much time would be needed to pull off twenty-one matches. Nobody granted Penn’s team much of a chance. The Quakers had been defeated by the Philadelphia Central YMCA in their only dual. As expected, all seven Penn wrestlers were beaten in the first round. Because all were local residents, it seems likely they simply went back to the dorms after losing. Two of the city’s top sportswriters, Billy Rocap of the Public Ledger and Richard Kane

of the Record, had been asked to serve as timers, hoping it would lead to favorable newspaper coverage. Unfortunately, the matches dragged on too long into the evening past the deadline for the newspapers. The next day the Philadelphia Inquirer reported: "at a late hour the men were still on the mats".together. Their main aim was to create a league, but they had to contend with several roadblocks, not the least of which was team scoring. One idea was that only falls would count. Another was to score it like a track meet with 5 points for the champion, 3 for the runner-up, and 1 point for third, but this would require consolation matches. The managers agreed they would need a follow-up meeting as soon as possible. One week later, on April 14, CDS noted: "Delegates from Princeton, Pennsylvania, and Yale will meet the Columbia delegates in Earl Hall tonight at 8 o'clock to elect the officers of the Intercollegiate Wrestling association for the ensuing year. It is probable that at the same time Yale will be officially awarded the wrestling championship for this year, which she won last Friday at Philadelphia."

The meeting at Columbia was a success. YDN published an account Tuesday April 18: "YALE AWARD WRESTLING CHAMPIONSHIP. At a meeting of the delegates from the different college associations, held at Columbia University Saturday evening, the intercollegiate wrestling championship for 1905 was formally awarded to Yale. A permanent intercollegiate wrestling association was formed and the following officers elected: President, A.H. Scott, Princeton; Vice-President L.A. Dole, Yale, Secretary and Treasurer, C. Brown, University of Pennsylvania. F.J. Echeverria of Columbia was appointed manager and director of the next intercollegiate tournament which will be held at Columbia on April 1, 1906. It was decided that all trial bouts should be of five minutes duration

and final bouts fifteen minutes. H. Sooeysmith, 1905, represented Yale at the meeting"

The league's first President, **Alexander Scott**, a junior, had been one of the defeated finalists. The following year he was listed as Princeton's team captain. Although he competed in duals during the 1906 season, he seems to have difficulty holding his slot on the team, possibly due to injury. He did attend the 1906 tournament at Columbia but he didn't wrestle. After graduating that year with a degree in civil engineering, he launched a career in the manufactured heating gas industry, working for Peoples Gas Company of Manchester NH. The first Secretary/Treasurer Charles Brown was one of the seven Quakers defeated in the opening round of the 1905 meet but the following year he became Penn's first intercollegiate champion.

Here is listing of the winners of the nation's first intercollegiate tournament April 6, 1905, with some details about their lives:

George Dole (115) and his identical twin brother **Louis Dole** (125) captured the two lightest weights for Yale. They were the best of all the early collegiate wrestlers. Their father was the pastor of a Swedenborgian church at Bath, Maine. In 1908 at Madison Square Garden they each won a national

amateur title on the same night! Both entered graduate school at Yale in 1906 and continued to wrestle for the team. George won the championship four years in a row. Louis won three titles. After college, both Louis and George became college professors. George served as coach of the Yale team in 1909. When World War One began he enlisted in the Navy. He was promoted to command two minesweepers, and received the Navy Cross. After the war he taught economics at St. Lawrence.



George and Louis Dole are pictured in the early 1920's. They were outstanding wrestlers at Yale University and both wrestled in the first intercollegiate tournament in 1905. George went on to become an Olympic Champion and served as the Yale Coach in 1909.

He died from a heart attack in 1926. George won an Olympic gold medal in wrestling at London in 1908. **Alfred Gilbert** (135) of Yale was an exceptional all-around athlete with a brilliant mind. He excelled at many sports. At one point he held the world's record in polevaulting. After college he decided not to return to his home on the West Coast and not to pursue a career in physical education or medicine. He married his sweetheart from Oregon and established a company in Connecticut to manufacture toys. His enterprise expanded rapidly to become one of the world's largest toymakers - his flagship products were the "Erector Set" and "American Flyer" miniature trains. After becoming a millionaire, A. C. Gilbert continued to be active in amateur sports as a leader, donor, benefactor, and emissary.

Joseph Howell (145) was Columbia's first wrestling champion. He was the only man who defeated a Yale wrestler in the finals but he was facing Sooeysmith whom he had already pinned in the dual on March 24. Howell's win/lose record is unusual because in the March 10 dual he had beaten George Dole who moved up two weights to take him on, and the following year, when he successfully defended his title in 1906, he beat Louis Dole who had

moved up to attempt the same. After graduation he became a mining engineer in the Big Cottonwood Mining District near Salt Lake City, Utah

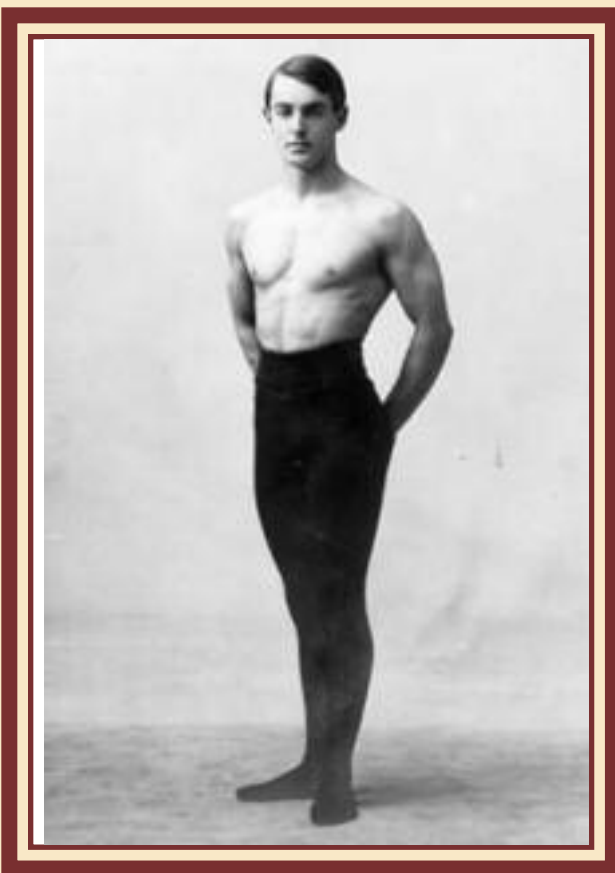
Jack Dickson, Princeton, had pinned Yale's middleweight Henry Yale in the dual but when they met again in the tournament final (155) it was a much closer contest. Due to the late hour, a draw was declared and they shared the title of champion. Dickson was born in Fargo, North Dakota. In 1906 he moved up to compete at 175 but was

pinned by Folwell of Penn. He dropped out of Princeton to enter medical school at the University of Toronto. After getting his MD in Canada, he relocated to New York City where he interned at City Hospital. He made a special study of tropical diseases after which he became a medical missionary of the Presbyterian Church in 1915. Dr. Dickson took his wife and family into a remote area of China where he set up a hospital and did some "amazing" work. In 1927, he fled back to Canada to escape the Chinese civil war but returned after a few years to resume his medical mission. He died in China in 1933.

Henry Yale (155) was a direct descendent of the Yale family of New Haven for whom his university is named. He also dropped out of college. He served in the U S Army in WWI during the fighting at Verdun, France. At first he moved to California after the war. Eventually he settled at Youngstown in western New York state where he was elected mayor of the city in the 1950s.

Donald Somers (175) of Yale was a law school student from Brooklyn. He had the worst luck of any of the first intercollegiate champion wrestlers. The following year he continued to be the best 175-lb grappler in school, but he

lost in two of his three dual meets to Jack Dickson of Princeton and Frederick Echeverria of Columbia. He may have become injured during the duals. He did not make any attempt to defend his title in the 1906 tournament at Columbia. After college he returned to his home in New York City and worked in the Financial District. The heavyweights, **Ward Tolbert**, Columbia and **Roswell Tripp**, Yale were the same pair that already had faced each other in the second Yale / Columbia dual on March 24.



Dean Alexander Pupin of Columbia University in the late 1800's, used to challenge enterig freshmen to beat him at wrestling. Columbia went on to field one of the first collegiate wrestling programs in the country.

The rules in that dual required winning two out of three falls. They must have been very evenly matched, or else they did the heavy-weight two-step without much action. The CDS description of the dual said Tolbert “put up a game fight against his gigantic opponent, and was thrown only after a struggle of over an hour's duration in the third bout.” The time of the dual meet fall as recorded was 60 minutes and 10 seconds. When they met again April 6 it must have been late at night when everyone was striving to end the tournament. Tolbert became a lawyer in Manhattan after college. He was elected State Senator for one term in 1921.

Roswell Tripp was the only college champion in the first intercollegiate tourney who had already established a nationwide reputation with the sports media writers. He was from Chicago and had played as a lineman on the 1902 University of Chicago football team. In 1903 he transferred to Yale, sat out a year, and then played first team guard for two years. Yale's 1905 undefeated grid team is usually named as the nation's best. This gives him the unusual distinction of having starred on national



The picture above shows an early match at Penn State University. It is interesting that the venue was out doors. Below is a picture of an early wrestling team from Lehigh University.



champion college teams in two different sports in the same year. After college he became a stockbroker in Connecticut.

Looking back on the situation as it was 110 years ago, I'm always impressed by the boldness and the intelligence displayed those college kids who created a new style of wrestling by modifying the AAU's amateur rules. They redefined the weight classes to better accommodate the average weights of the athletic-type students on campus. They addressed the eternal problems caused by stalling. They were able to compromise on sticky issues such as allowing the host team manager to hire the officials and set the date for the annual tournament. The outcome of their collaboration has been the establishment of a new nationwide sport for several hundred American colleges and several thousand high schools. The league they formed (now known as the EIWA) has conducted its annual championships every year without interruption, even during wartime. We owe a lot to them. We ought to discover more about them and learn more about why they did what they did.

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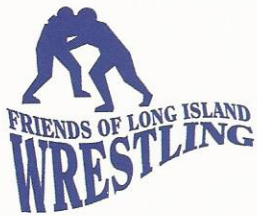
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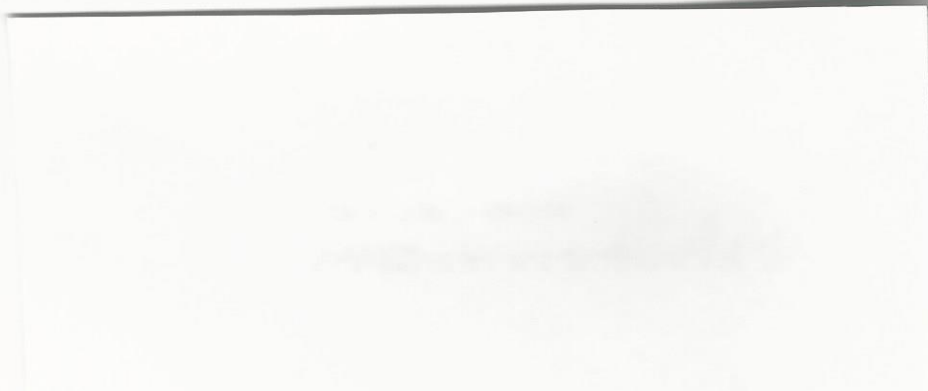
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